



# TERROR OF THE SONTARANS

## BY JOHN DORNEY & DAN STARKEY

**THE DOCTOR: SYLVESTER McCOY**

Time traveller.

**MEL: BONNIE LANGFORD**

Time traveller's companion.

**KETCH:**

Human hybrid, contortionist extraordinaire.

**ANVIL JACKSON:**

Action hero type.

**TETHNEKA/CARTER/THING #1 AND #2:**

Alien priestess./Human mineralogist./Carbon-based creatures.

**FIELD-MAJOR KAYSTE:**

Head Sontaran.

**SKEGG/STETTNER:**

Deranged Sontaran./Monstrous crustacean.

**ADJUTANT COMMANDER KLATH:**

Sontaran deputy.

**TECHNICIAN GYTE:**

Sontaran technical expert.

**ALSO: STOD** (mad Sontaran); **GLARR** (mad Sontaran); **SONTARAN TROOPERS X 7** (all doubled with other Sontaran performers - need not be especially differentiated); **COMPUTER VOICE.**

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**PART ONE**

**SCENE 1: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(SILENCE. A PLASMA BLASTER ECHOES AROUND A LARGE EMPTY ROOM. WE HEAR BREATHING IN THE FOREGROUND. ANOTHER PLASMA BLAST RESOUNDS)

**STOD:**

(LOW, HOARSE LAUGHTER. WHISPER) So many colours! So bright and...

(ANOTHER BLAST. AS THE ECHO SUBSIDES, THE BLASTER'S POWER PACK INDICATES IT IS LOW ON CHARGE - A DESCENDING TONE)

**STOD:**

(DELIGHTED LAUGHTER) Do you see that? Do you see? Just one more...

(A FINAL, WEAKER PLASMA BLAST ECHOES AROUND THE ROOM. THEN THE TRIGGER BEING PULLED IN VAIN)

**STOD:**

Beautiful... So beautiful. All gone now. Still you watch...

(THE BLASTER CLATTERS AS IT'S TOSSED ASIDE. FOOTSTEPS RECEDE INTO THE DISTANCE, THE VOICE GOING WITH THEM)

**STOD:**

(OFF TO FADE) All gone... All gone... Alone... All gone...

**SCENE 2: INT. BASE UPPER LEVEL**

(THE TARDIS MATERIALISES. THE DOCTOR STEPS OUT)

**DOCTOR:**

Hello! Anyone home?

(MEL EXITS BEHIND HIM AND CLOSSES THE DOOR)

**MEL:**

Doctor! Are you sure that's a good idea?

**DOCTOR:**

What, saying hello? Of course. One should always be polite.

**MEL:**

I meant shouting out. Surely it's sensible to be cautious?

**DOCTOR:**

When have I ever been cautious?

**MEL:**

Distress beacons do tend to suggest that someone's, well... in distress. I'm perfectly happy to help, obviously, but I'm not awfully keen to join them.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, but a distress beacon also suggests that whoever launched it had enough time to launch a distress beacon. If they managed that, then we'll have the time to run away. Should we need it. Should anything untoward happen.

**MEL:**

You do realise that isn't a comfort, don't you?

**DOCTOR:**

No-one's come to kill us yet, so we're doing alright for now.

**MEL:**

They could have attached a message. Given us a clue. (BEAT)  
Place seems deserted. It's all rather dark.

**DOCTOR:**

But I can still see you... meaning there's a light source in the next room! (HE HEADS OUT. SHE FOLLOWS...)

(... BUT A DERANGED SONTARAN - STOD - SHUFFLES BEHIND THEM)

**STOD:**

(SNUFFLING)

**SCENE 3: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(MEL ENTERS AND IMMEDIATELY STOPS)

**MEL:**

Wow.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, it's obvious why someone put a transparent dome on the top level, rather than walls and a ceiling. What a spectacular view.

**MEL:**

What are those? Dust clouds?

**DOCTOR:**

Of the most iridescent kind.

**MEL:**

Shame the surface is so barren.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, I don't know, Mel. I think the contrast between the rocks and the sky is what makes the ensemble work. Like Sydney Harbour. I never can choose between the Opera House and the Bridge.

**MEL:**

Actually, it's not all that barren, if you look. All those multi-coloured patches on the ground.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. Lichen or seaweed, maybe? Must be humid out there.

**MEL:**

Those sculptures are odd, though.

**DOCTOR:**

Sculptures?

**MEL:**

Those sculptures. Behind us?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh. I was distracted by the view. Why odd? They look roughly human. More so than many sculptures you have on Earth.

**MEL:**

I'm not talking about the design. I mean their being here at all. Why bother putting sculptures in a room with a view like that? Who's going to look at them?

**DOCTOR:**

Maybe someone got bored of the sky. If you saw it every day, you might take it for granted too.

**MEL:**

I just think you'd put them somewhere else. (BEAT) So could we go outside?

**DOCTOR:**

Not with those clouds out there. I rather suspect they'd be inimical to human life, despite their beauty. The atmosphere's probably breathable, just about. But on balance... not the most hospitable environment.

**MEL:**

Then we might as well press on.

**DOCTOR:**

(TURNING) Yes, I think that's the - (BREAKS OFF) Now that is odd.

**MEL:**

What is?

**DOCTOR:**

These glass panels. Do they look discoloured to you?

**MEL:**

Perhaps a bit.

**DOCTOR:**

(HE WANDERS OVER) If I didn't know better, I'd say that was typically the result of laser fire.

**MEL:**

What, from a laser gun?

**DOCTOR:**

Or some kind of energy weapon, certainly. (TOUCHES GLASS) Cool to the touch. The damage isn't very recent.

**MEL:**

Yes, but if someone's been shooting a laser gun in here...

**DOCTOR:**

It is rather worrying, isn't it? Come on.

(THEY HEAD OUT. AS THEY DO, CROSS OVER TO STOD SNUFFLING IN THE FOREGROUND)

**STOD:**

(SNUFFLING)

**MEL:**

(OFF) Awfully dark through here.

**DOCTOR:**

(OFF) Good job I spotted the light switch, then.

(OFF, HE FLICKS A HEFTY CONTROL. A WHIRR OF POWER. THE WHOLE PLACE LIGHTS UP. THE LIGHTS FLICKER AND SPARK A BIT. AT THIS:)

**STOD:**

(ALARMED, SHUFFLES AWAY)

(CROSS BACK TO:)

**DOCTOR:**

Did I say light switch? I meant auxiliary power controls.

**MEL:**

Not the most consistent power supply, is it? Oh, well, it's better than - (STOPS) Doctor - did something move over there? Back towards the TARDIS?

**DOCTOR:**

It's your imagination. Come on.

(THEY EXIT)

**SCENE 4: INT. CELLS**

(SMALL CLANKING NOISE AND A GRIND OF GEARS. ON VARIOUS CELL DOORS, SERVING HATCHES OPEN. THE CHARACTERS CALL OUT FROM BEHIND DIFFERENT DOORS THROUGHOUT, SPREAD OUT, AND UNTIL THEY'RE RELEASED IN LATER SCENES)

**KETCH:**

(CALLING OUT) Hello! Hello? Can anyone hear me?

**JACKSON:**

(CALLING OUT) That you, Clown?

**KETCH:**

Clown? Mr Ketch to you, sonny Jim. And yes, it is me. Obviously. You're still in there, Jackson?

**JACKSON:**

Feels like it.

**KETCH:**

Good to hear. Well, looks like it's feeding time. At last. If they've unlocked the service hatches...

**JACKSON:**

I'd rather they'd have unlocked the doors.

**KETCH:**

Prisoners can't be choosers. Look on the bright side. Bit of fresh air at last... Although they're taking their time to dish up. I have to say the service here's been terrible. Not even two star...

**JACKSON:**

How about the others? Are they still locked up?

**KETCH:**

Can't you tell? I thought your cell had a good view.

**JACKSON:**

If I could see them, d'you think I'd be asking? They haven't put the lights on... Can you use any of your, ah... talents?

**KETCH:**

(SIGHS) You know, I'll have to start charging my full fee for this. Now... (SOUNDS OF HIS LIMBS CONTORTING THEMSELVES) I'll stretch meself up to the grille and have a shufti. (EFFORT) Hello? Miss Tethneka? Mr Stettimer? Are you there?

**JACKSON:**

Oi! Lobster, rouse yourself.

**STETTNER:**

(ROARING, BEHIND DOOR, FROM DISTANT THROUGHOUT)

**KETCH:**

Oh, he's up then. - Tethneka!

**JACKSON:**

Mother Superior! You still with us?

**STETTNER:**

(ROARS AGAIN. THUMPS THE WALLS OF HIS CELL)

**KETCH:**

Yes, we know you're there, Lobster, my dear. That much is obvious. - Tethneka!

(SILENCE)

**JACKSON:**

No answer. She's dead! She's got to be dead. Those monsters!  
Ohh, when I get out [of here...]

**KETCH:**

Don't be presumptuous. She may be meditating. Not much else to do in the dark, is there?

**JACKSON:**

I suppose not. And she does do that, doesn't she?

**KETCH:**

Indeed she does. Whereas me... well, I had a kip for a while myself, but hunger pangs woke me up. Don't mind telling you I'm quite famished.

**JACKSON:**

You've been in solitary too?

**KETCH:**

Think we all have, by the sounds of it. Our friend Mr Stettner appears quite agitated...

**STETTNER:**

(ROARS) I am tired of this waiting! Is this another of your tests, [egg-men]?

**KETCH:**

Hello, Mr Stettner! Let's hope not.



**JACKSON:**

Yeah, hold your horses, Lobster old boy. We don't know what they've got in store next.

**STETTIMER:**

You do not command me, humans!

**KETCH:**

Human, is it? You flatter.

**STETTIMER:**

Nor our captors! I am Archon Stettimer. Do you hear? Stettimer!

**JACKSON:**

Oh, here he goes...

**KETCH:**

Sing along if you know this one, ladies and gents.

**STETTIMER:**

(INTONING/RECITING) Stettimer long in the cavern waited/ Broad his shell and sharp his claws/ Great his valour Prince unconquered/ Praise his name across the stars!

(HE CONTINUES THE LITANY OF HIS ANCESTORS AND PACES AROUND HIS CELL. THE OTHER TWO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSION OVER THE TOP)

**STETTIMER:**

(UNDER) Spawn of Hordimer, lord of the five worlds/ Dark his eyes and deep his grasp/ Crushed his enemies' shells beneath him/ Lead his hoplites near and far! Grand Duke Aktimer, good in the war-cry/ Long his breath and hard his shell/ Carved his rule with a thousand sword-strokes/ Sent his enemies down to Hell. Wise Old Vortimer, Best of Generals/ Stiff of joint but bright of mind/ Armies fled in fear before him/ Lead his troops and held the line...

**KETCH:**

Oh well, if it keeps him happy.

**JACKSON:**

What are they planning? Your cell still shut?

**KETCH:**

(RATTLES THE DOOR) Seems so. Looks like we'll have to sit this one out again... until they fetch us. And then...

**JACKSON:**

Hang in there, Clown. Sit tight.

**KETCH:**

Not exactly much alternative, is there?

**SCENE 5: INT. STAIRWELL**

(THE DOCTOR AND MEL WALK ONTO A STAIRWELL)

**MEL:**

Looks like the only way is down.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, the bulk of this facility must lie below that dome. Like an iceberg. Or a baked alaska.

(THEY START DOWNSTAIRS)

**MEL:**

You'd think they'd provide lifts. If you've achieved space-travel you should be able to afford elevators.

**DOCTOR:**

If you'd be willing to trust them in somewhere this ramshackle.

**MEL:**

Perhaps not. And look, more art. A mural? In a stairwell?

**DOCTOR:**

I can think of worse places to put a mural. It is quite the abstract, though.

**MEL:**

Abstract? I'd say messy.

**DOCTOR:**

It's a shoe-in for the Turner Prize.

(THEY REACH THE NEXT LEVEL)

Here we are, next level down. Blast doors.

(RATTLES AN OPENING MECHANISM. IT FALLS OFF)

But not the most secure variety. That was the opening mechanism.

**MEL:**

Perhaps the blast doors got blasted?

(THEY MOVE INTO THE NEXT ROOM, CRUNCHING ON GLASS)

**SCENE 6: INT. COMPUTER ROOM [CONTINUOUS]**

(A BULB FLICKERS. THE DOCTOR AND MEL ENTER. SOME COMPUTERS RUN. BIG ECHOEY ROOM)

**DOCTOR:**

A computer room! This must be some kind of central control hub.

**MEL:**

The terminals are working, just about. Perfect, they should tell us something about what happened here.

(SHE MOVES OVER TO THE COMPUTERS, BLOWS DUST OFF THEM)

If the dust hasn't damaged them, of course.

(SHE SITS AND TYPES. THE DOCTOR WANDERS)

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, it's everywhere, isn't it? (SCOOPS SOME UP) Heaps of the stuff all over the place, like fine sand. (LETS IT TRICKLE AWAY)

**MEL:**

Hasn't clogged the systems, they're running perfectly well.

**DOCTOR:**

(MUSING) Airlock down that corridor. For easy access to the surface... (FINDING SOMETHING) Uniform lockers. (OPENS AND CLOSES THEM) Without uniforms. Whatever this place is, it's very strange. An odd mix of the long-abandoned and the recently inhabited. Aha!

(HE'S REACHED SOMETHING FLICKERING)

**MEL:**

Have you found something?

**DOCTOR:**

A kind of electronic schematic. Portable too... (TAKES IT OFF THE WALL) It appears to be the layout of the base.

**MEL:**

Oh?

**DOCTOR:**

(READING) There's a glass-domed viewing and recreation platform on the top storey -

**MEL:**

Where we landed.

**DOCTOR:**

Where we landed. Then downstairs to the ground floor -

**MEL:**

Where we are now.

**DOCTOR:**

Where we are now. (READING, STABBING HIS FINGER AT EACH LOCATION) Here we find power relays, equipment stores, a loading bay, a mess hall, an archive room and the Mining Computer Hub.

**MEL:**

That last one being this room, presumably?

**DOCTOR:**

Apparently so. Mining, eh?

**MEL:**

So it keeps going down then, does it, this base? Into mines?

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. After this floor it's a lot of mineral labs spiralling around a geothermal shaft. I imagine that provides energy for the base.

**MEL:**

Not very successfully. Probably on the fritz, judging by the way the lights flicker...

**DOCTOR:**

It goes very deep, all the way into the cave-systems. They're spread out far below. The whole place is built on a geological fault - for ease of access below the crust.

(MEL'S COMPUTER BEEPS)

**MEL:**

Ah. I think I've found something myself.

**DOCTOR:**

Excellent.

**MEL:**

This seems to be a... captain's log.

(SHE PUNCHES UP VLOG FOOTAGE)

**COMPUTER VOICE:**

Playing recording.

(THE LOG CRACKLES AND OBSCURES SOME WORDS - IN SQUARE PARENTHESES)

**CARTER:**

(DISTORT) OK, Clovis, I'll be up in a minute. - This is the personal log of Ava Carter, head of mineralogical research at the I.M.C. facility Piranesi-1.

**MEL:**

I.M.C.?

**DOCTOR:**

A mining company. Not my favourite people.

**CARTER:**

(DISTORT) The date is [October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2996,] three months to the day since we started our mission.

**MEL:**

Well, that's not terribly helpful.

**CARTER:**

(DISTORT) Although it's still early days, all teams have reported some interesting - and potentially profitable - results. As anticipated from spectroscopic analyses off-world, this planet - designated E.R.M. four-nine-nine-seven - has a highly unique geology, despite its comparative youth in planetary terms.

**MEL:**

E.R.M. four-nine-nine-seven. Mean anything to you?

**DOCTOR:**

Not the proverbial sausage.

**CARTER:**

(DISTORT) We anticipate good yields of [trisilicate, limpidium and tetramanganese]. Red Team have reported interesting results with the seams running below Alpha-Lab, and Blue Team's exploration of the cave system suggests this is consistent with the lower strata. This stage of research is budgeted to last for another two trimesters, but projected revenues would seem to justify IMC's initial investment and point to full-scale planetary excavation going forward.

**DOCTOR:**

And yet the whole place is deserted.

**CARTER:**

(DISTORT) Despite the loss of [Researcher Jovian in a cave accident last month] -

**MEL:**

Loss? Someone died?

**DOCTOR:**

Perhaps. Or perhaps someone just flew home?

**CARTER:**

... morale is holding up well. Rations will get a bit monotonous by the next planet-fall, but none of us signed up for the fine dining! Speaking with some experience, I am confident we can justify our bonuses this year. Nights are long and...

(LOG SQUAWKS AS THE FILES BECOME HEAVILY CORRUPTED, THEN DIES)

**MEL:**

Hmm. Sounds like that's it for the moment.

**DOCTOR:**

Shame it's missing key information.

(CROSS TO STOD IN THE FOREGROUND)

**STOD:**

(GRUNTING)

**MEL:**

(DISTANT) Yes. I'm not sure if the files or the system were corrupted, but I could try rebuilding them, with time.

**DOCTOR:**

(DISTANT) You might not need it. According to this schematic, there's an archive through there. It must have more data!

(THEY CROSS THE ROOM, STOD SHUFFLES AWAY)

**STOD:**

(SNUFFLING OFF)

**SCENE 7: INT. ARCHIVE ANTE-ROOM**

(DOCTOR AND MEL ENTER A NEW CHAMBER)

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, base archive through here.

(RATTLES THE HANDLE. NOTHING HAPPENS)

Or perhaps not.

(MEL TRIES IT)

**MEL:**

That isn't just locked, it's jammed.

**DOCTOR:**

And seemingly re-engineered. So it would appear this schematic doesn't tell the whole story. What's actually behind there, I wonder?

(HE RUSTLES THE SCHEMATIC)

**MEL:**

Doctor... what are those dots?

**DOCTOR:**

What dots?

**MEL:**

Those dots, on the lower levels. They're moving, ever so slightly.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. In the... (CHECKS MAP) labs. I'd missed them completely.

**MEL:**

Life signs?

**DOCTOR:**

Possibly. Only one way to find out.

**MEL:**

Which is?

**DOCTOR:**

Head down and look.

**MEL:**

Are you sure? If those dots indicate whatever caused the emergency in the first place...



**DOCTOR:**

Oh, I'm sure we've nothing to worry about, Mel. The level of sand everywhere, the lack of electricity, the general dilapidation. Whatever happened here happened long ago. And we've no reason to assume it was an act of violence.

**MEL:**

It usually is, though.

**DOCTOR:**

Given their comparative lack of movement, they might be trapped down there. Maybe a wall collapsed, or the roof caved in. They might be stuck there, slowly starving, awaiting rescue.

**MEL:**

I suppose.

**DOCTOR:**

We've got to look. We don't have any choice.

**MEL:**

As long as we're cautious.

**DOCTOR:**

We will be. Now - there's a comms system over there. We can let them know we're coming, tell them hope is on its way!

(HE MOVES OFF)

**MEL:**

Wait, what?

(THE DOCTOR OPERATES CONTROLS)

**DOCTOR:**

Hello? Hello, can anyone hear me...?

(CROSS TO:)

**SCENE 8: INT. CELLS [CONTINUOUS]**

(STETTNER MUTTERS HIS EPIC IN THE BACKGROUND AS THE DOCTOR'S COMMS MESSAGE CONTINUES OVER THE TANNOY. PARTS ARE UNINTELLIGIBLE)

**DOCTOR:**

(DISTORTED) This is (CRACKLE) And Mel. (CRACKLE) We'll be down soon!

(THE MESSAGE CUTS OUT)

**KETCH:**

Will you now? And who might you be when you're at home?

**JACKSON:**

Steady on, Clown. You know what they're like. This could be another test.

**KETCH:**

Hope springs eternal.

**JACKSON:**

Friends to the rescue? Sounds like wishful thinking.

**KETCH:**

Ooh, it's a tough old cosmos you live in isn't it, matey-bob?

**JACKSON:**

Just seen too much to be positive... When they get here we keep quiet. And initiate Plan D.

**STETTNER:**

I am Stettner and I will destroy whoever next comes through that door! Great my anger, wide my claw!

**KETCH:**

Oh strewth.

**JACKSON:**

Save it, Lobster! That isn't Plan D!

**STETTNER:**

They will rue this dishonour! There will be a reckoning!

**KETCH:**

I'm sure there will. You won't be able to move for rueing, lots of reckoning all over the shop.

**STETTIMER:**

Yes, reckoning there will be! But no shops. I am no shopkeeper.  
I am Archon...

**KETCH/JACKSON:**

Stettimer!

**KETCH:**

We know! Here's a thing, it could be someone who doesn't want to  
kill or torture us. How's about that?

**JACKSON:**

Ever the optimist, eh, Clown? You remind me... Did I ever tell  
you about my escape from the Cloud Prisons on Plexaris-9?

**KETCH:**

Probably.

**JACKSON:**

The Ice Queen had held me captive for fifteen lunar cycles, but  
on the sixteenth she made one tiny, but fatal mistake...

**SCENE 9: INT. STAIRWELL**

(THE DOCTOR AND MEL TRAIPISE DOWNSTAIRS)

**DOCTOR:**

Don't you just love a spiral staircase, Mel? So much more exciting than regular stairs.

**MEL:**

Whatever you say, Doctor. - So the energy core's through that wall?

**DOCTOR:**

Yes.

**MEL:**

Odd to think of all that power flowing past us. Is it much further?

**DOCTOR:**

(FADING OFF AS THEY DESCEND) Just another couple of flights...

(THEY VANISH BELOW. AFTER A FEW MOMENTS, STOD FOLLOWS, GRUMBLING AND STUMBLING)

**SCENE 10: INT. CELLS**

(THE DOCTOR AND MEL ENTER. CRACKLING LIGHTS EVERYWHERE)

**MEL:**

These don't look like labs to me...

**DOCTOR:**

They look more like cells.

**MEL:**

Is it too much to ask that one of these rooms has decent lighting?

(THE DOCTOR TAPS CONTROLS)

You're not going to open one of those cells?

**DOCTOR:**

Can you think of a better way to discover what's happening here?

**MEL:**

But people in cells are usually dangerous.

**DOCTOR:**

Nonsense. I've been in plenty of cells over the years. And I'm a puppy dog.

**MEL:**

You? You're the most dangerous person I know.

(NOISE FROM STAIRWELL BEHIND - STOD CLAMBERING DOWN AFTER THEM)

**MEL:**

(SOTTO) Doctor... Doctor, I think something followed us. Down the stairwell.

**DOCTOR:**

Not now, Mel, I've nearly got this...

(HE FLICKS A SWITCH. THERE'S A SERIES OF CLUNKS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, STOD CHARGES FROM THE STAIRWELL!)

**STOD:**

(GUTTURAL BATTLE CRY)

**MEL:**

Something did follow us! Doctor!!!

(THE CLUNKS TURN INTO STETTIMER'S DOOR UNLOCKING AND OPENING)

**DOCTOR:**

(REALISATION) The cell door's opening!

**STETTIMER:**

I am Stettimer! And this is my reckoning!

(HE CHARGES OUT, ATTACKING STOD. HUGE MELEE BREAKS OUT)

**DOCTOR:**

Get back, Mel! As far as possible!

**MEL:**

(RETREATING) What's happening? It's too dark to see!

**DOCTOR:**

I don't know. But whatever that thing following us was, the creature in the cell is saving us from it. Or possibly the other way round...

(THE FIGHTERS SLAM INTO A WALL. A CONTROL SHATTERS. A DOOR SLIDES DOWN BEHIND THE DOCTOR, IN FRONT OF MEL, SHUTTING WITH AN ECHOING CLANG)

**MEL:**

(TRAPPED BEHIND THE DOOR) Doctor! (SHE HAMMERS THE DOOR)

**DOCTOR:**

One moment!

(THE MELEE SPIRALS OUT OF THE ROOM. THE COMBATANTS TUMBLE DOWNSTAIRS, STILL FIGHTING)

I think we're clear. They're taking their disagreement downstairs... Mel? Mel, where are you?

(CROSS TO:)

**SCENE 11: INT. OTHER HALF OF CELLS, BEHIND DOOR [CONTINUOUS]**

(MEL'S SIDE OF THE DOOR. SHE HAMMERS ON THE DOOR)

**MEL:**

Behind this door or wall, or whatever this is! It just appeared out of nowhere!

**DOCTOR:**

(MUFFLED) Are you alright?

**MEL:**

Yes. The lights are completely out this side, but apart from that, everything's fine.

**DOCTOR:**

(MUFFLED) It must be a security door. Locks off the cells from the rest of the room. I think those two hit the controls in their melee.

**MEL:**

Hence it closing.

**DOCTOR:**

(MUFFLED) Yes, the controls are smashed. I'll have to try releasing you from upstairs.

**MEL:**

Well... alright. I suppose it doesn't seem especially dangerous.

**DOCTOR:**

(MUFFLED) I'll try to get the lights working as well. I'll be as quick as I can!

(ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR, JUST AUDIBLY, THE DOCTOR'S STEPS RECEDE)

**MEL:**

Bye, Doctor. - So much for us coming to the rescue...

(NEARBY, KETCH IS WHISTLING)

Hello? Is there someone there?

(KETCH TAPS THE WALL OF HIS CELL)

Hello? I'll come towards you. Are you hurt? I can't see very well... (SHE STUMBLES ALONG) I'll feel my way along the wall. Keep whistling.

**SCENE 12: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(THE DOCTOR RACES IN)

**DOCTOR:**

Right. Door controls... door controls...

(HE FLICKS SWITCHES)



**SCENE 13: INT. ANTE-CHAMBER BETWEEN CELLS**

(MEL HAS REACHED KETCH'S CELL)

**MEL:**

There, that's it. Are you in there? The door's locked. Can you hear me? Are you alright?

(CRACKLE OVER THE TANNOY)

**DOCTOR:**

(DISTORTED) Mel? I know you can't reply, but I'm upstairs. I'm trying to open that shutter. There's quite a few controls, but none of them are identified. I'll try the lot. Just a matter of time. When you're released, find me. Now, maybe if I try... this-  
(CUTS OFF)

(A GRIND OF GEARS. THE CELLS DOORS ALL UNLOCK AND OPEN. THE HINGES SQUEAK PAINFULLY)

**MEL:**

Security door, Doctor, not the cell doors!

(JACKSON GRABS MEL)

**JACKSON:**

Not so fast, you!

**MEL:**

Let go of me! I wasn't doing anything! Fast or otherwise!

**JACKSON:**

Not until we find out who you are...

**KETCH:**

Oh for goodness' sakes Jackson, it's not one of them!

**JACKSON:**

We don't know that for sure!

**MEL:**

Will you get off! (EFFORT)

(MEL TRIPS HIM UP. HE FALLS TO THE GROUND WITH A THUD)

**JACKSON:**

(WINDED)

(THE LIGHTS COME ON)

**KETCH:**

Ah, the lights, that's better, now we can see! What are you doing on the floor, Mr Jackson?

**JACKSON:**

I... fancied a lie-down.

**KETCH:**

I think it's best if we keep on our new friend's good side. - Hello, Miss! Pleasure to make your acquaintance!

**MEL:**

(CAREFULLY) And yours...

**JACKSON:**

Easy, Clown! We still don't know who she is. She's clearly combat trained...

**MEL:**

Hardly! Some self-defence classes at the Village Hall, but I'm no karate kid. My name's Melanie Bush. I'm here to help.

**KETCH:**

Yes, we heard your colleague's message over the comms. I do apologise for my colleague's manhandling of you. After the time we've had here, we couldn't take any chances.

**JACKSON:**

Got to have a plan.

**KETCH:**

Yeah. "Whistle, then we grab her if we can." Tactical genius, Mr Jackson.

**MEL:**

Well, I've had warmer welcomes, Mr...?

**KETCH:**

Forgive me, Miss. Ketch. Godfrey Ketch, all-round entertainer, late of the Galactic Pleasure Cruiser HMSS Unbelievable.

**JACKSON:**

Where have you come from?

**MEL:**

Well, Earth originally.

**KETCH:**

Ooh - Earth, eh? There's posh! Slumming it a bit in the Outer Galaxy, aren't we?

**JACKSON:**

You're a long way from home, Princess. How did you get here?

**MEL:**

I'm not a princess. And we've still not been properly introduced, Mr Jackson.

**JACKSON:**

Colonel Jackson.

**MEL:**

Colonel?

**JACKSON:**

You might have heard of me as "Anvil" Jackson. I get about a bit.

**MEL:**

"Anvil"? That's an odd name.

**JACKSON:**

Nickname. It's actually the word for an ancient piece of Earth technology, used in the distant past for hammering nails into wood.

**MEL:**

No. That's a hammer.

**JACKSON:**

A what?

**MEL:**

A hammer. Hence 'hammering'.

**JACKSON:**

Ha! I don't think so. I'd have to be an idiot not to know the meaning of my own nickname. So, Earth girl, what brings you this far into the Outer Galaxy? You're far beyond Terran jurisdiction here.

**MEL:**

I don't know what you're taking about. I came here with my friend the Doctor. We answered your distress beacon.

**JACKSON:**

Distress beacon? What... Who sent you?

**KETCH:**

Oh give it a rest, lad. I think Ms Bush here is as good as her word. And a personal physician too? Must be handy. Eccentric aristocratic lady on an adventure holiday, is it?

**MEL:**

Not exactly.

**JACKSON:**

Explains the clothes.

**MEL:**

What's wrong with my clothes? And he's not that kind of Doctor. I... Hang on, there were other life-signs on the schematic. Are there any more of you?

**KETCH:**

Hah, well I think you met Mr Stettimer on the way in.

**JACKSON:**

Lobster.

**KETCH:**

Crustacean, two and a half metres tall, fond of poetry. He's difficult to miss.

**MEL:**

Yes... Something jumped us outside, I think he attacked it...

**KETCH:**

Aha, yes. One of our hosts, perhaps.

**MEL:**

Hosts?

**JACKSON:**

He means our jailers.

**SCENE 14: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(THE DOCTOR FLICKING SWITCHES)

**DOCTOR:**

Surely one of these must work...

(HE FLICKS A SWITCH. A DOOR OPENS BEHIND HIM)

Ah. So that's how we get to the archive...

(HE HESITATES)

Well, if Mel's shutter hasn't opened already, she can wait a few more seconds...

(HE HEADS TO WHERE THE DOOR OPENED. AFTER HE'S GONE, A FEW MOMENTS PASS THEN:)

**COMPUTER VOICE:**

Incoming spaceship. Prepare docking tube.

**SCENE 15: INT. ANTE-CHAMBER BETWEEN CELLS**

**TETHNEKA:**

(MOANS FROM ONE OF THE OTHER CELLS)

**KETCH:**

Sounds like Tethneka's awake.

**JACKSON:**

Hey, Mother Superior. You in there?

(CREAK OF HINGES AS TETHNEKA ENTERS FROM HER CELL)

**TETHNEKA:**

(APPROACHING) Jackson, is that you child?

**KETCH:**

Miss Tethneka. So glad you're here. We weren't sure you'd made it through this time.

**TETHNEKA:**

I was... meditating. The Seven Spiritual Exercises gave me the strength to withstand the solitary confinement. But who is this?

**KETCH:**

Ms Melanie Bush. From Earth, no less!

**MEL:**

Hello.

**TETHNEKA:**

Are you a prisoner, too?

**JACKSON:**

No. The princess here has come to rescue us all. She says.

**MEL:**

I'm not a - Oh, why won't you believe me?

**TETHNEKA:**

Jackson's heart has weathered much, child. He finds it difficult to trust. But all of us have suffered in this terrible place.

**MEL:**

Mr Ketch said you've all been imprisoned here.

**TETHNEKA:**

Indeed. Imprisoned, and worse.

**MEL:**

But why? Who imprisoned you?

**KETCH:**

You don't know?

**JACKSON:**

You've a nasty surprise coming up, Princess...

**SCENE 16: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(THE DOCTOR CREEPS IN. THE TECH TICKS OVER GENTLY. IT'S NEWER,  
AND DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT IN ORIGIN - SONTARAN, NOT HUMAN)

**DOCTOR:**

Hmm. Seems to be a command deck. (BEAT) That technology looks  
famil(iar) - Oh no...

(HE RACES OUT)



**SCENE 17: INT. ANTE-CHAMBER BETWEEN CELLS**

(KETCH, JACKSON AND TETHNEKA ARE STILL SPEAKING TO MEL)

**KETCH:**

Surprised you didn't run into them upstairs.

**TETHNEKA:**

They are sorry, angry creatures.

(CRACKLE OVER THE COMMS SYSTEM)

**DOCTOR:**

(DISTORTED) Mel! We're i[n terrible] danger! If the doors aren't open already, when they do, make straight for the TARDIS!

**JACKSON:**

That's your ship?

**MEL:**

Yes. But 'danger'?

**DOCTOR:**

(DISTORTED) I found a command deck. It had alien technology wired into its systems, and I recognised which technology! Now... maybe this switch -

(THE DOORS GRIND SOMEWHERE BEHIND. SKEGG MUTTERS IN THE DISTANCE)

**KETCH:**

Wrong set of doors, matey-bob. That's the cells again, not the door to the staircase...

**JACKSON:**

Doesn't seem too bright for a physician...

**MEL:**

The Doctor's a genius! If we're in trouble, he's the best person to get us out of it.

**KETCH:**

But he might need a locksmith to do it.

**SKEGG:**

(QUIET GIBBERING FROM BEHIND DISTANT CELL DOOR, WELL OFF)

**MEL:**

I think it's the system. Do you know anything [about...]

**TETHNEKA:**

Wait! Can you hear, from the punishment cell?

**MEL:**

Punishment cell?

**JACKSON:**

The far end, over there. I think your friend just opened it...

**KETCH:**

You're right, my dear. Who could that be?

**MEL:**

You don't know?

**TETHNEKA:**

We were the only prisoners.

**JACKSON:**

Another "rescuer"? Or a trap?

(THEY APPROACH THE PUNISHMENT CELL. THE QUIET GIBBERING ECHOING FROM IT GETS LOUDER AS THEY APPROACH)

**TETHNEKA:**

He sounds distressed, whoever it is.

**MEL:**

If you were the only prisoners, who's in there?

**KETCH:**

That's what I wanna know.

(JACKSON PUSHES IT OPEN. THE DOOR CREAKS. THEY GASP IN SURPRISE AS THE MUTTERING FIGURE IS REVEALED)

**MEL:**

What's that?

**JACKSON:**

One of our jailers!

**SKEGG:**

Leave me alone! Keep them away from me! I'm scared!

**SCENE 18: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(THE DOCTOR OPERATING CONTROLS FRANTICALLY)

**DOCTOR:**

Come on, come on -

**COMPUTER VOICE:**

Ship fully docked. Opening airlock.

(THE AIRLOCK SWIRLS OPEN SOME WAY OFF, DOWN THE INNER CORRIDOR)

**DOCTOR:**

What? What ship? Oh, no! Time to hide. Those lockers, I think...!

(HE DIVES INTO A CUPBOARD. TWELVE SONTARANS TROOP INTO THE ROOM)

**TROOPER:**

Entry site secured.

(KAYSTE AND KLATH ARE ADVANCING DOWN THE INNER CORRIDOR)

**KAYSTE:**

(OFF) We do not launch distress beacons!

**KLATH:**

(OFF) No, sir, but Central Command were most insistent.

**KAYSTE:**

(OFF) This is an unwarranted intrusion into my mission!

**TROOPER #1:**

Field-Major Kayste entering. Squad 'shun!

(THE SONTARANS COME TO ATTENTION. KAYSTE AND KLATH ENTER)

**KAYSTE:**

What a miserable location. Whoever is responsible for this impertinence shall die. And they shall die at my hand! For the glory of the Sontaran race!

(CLOSING THEME)

**PART TWO**

(OPENING THEME)

**REPRISE:**

**TROOPER:**

*Field-Major Kayste entering. Squad 'shun!*

*(THE SONTARANS COME TO ATTENTION AS KAYSTE AND KLATH ENTER)*

**KAYSTE:**

*What a miserable location. Whoever is responsible for this impertinence shall die. And they shall die at my hand! For the glory of the Sontaran race!*

(CROSS TO:)

**SCENE 19: INT. CUPBOARD IN COMPUTER ROOM [CONTINUOUS]**

(THE DOCTOR BREATHES QUIETLY, CLOSE)

**KAYSTE:**

(MUFFLED) I am needed in the Hammerhead Nebula with the rest of the fleet, not investigating minor situations on backwater planets. At ease!

(OUTSIDE THE TROOPS STAND AT EASE)

**KLATH:**

(MUFFLED) Indeed sir, but the distress communication is seen as sufficiently anomalous to warrant investigation.

**KAYSTE:**

(MUFFLED) I should lead from the front, Klath, not skulk in the shadows.

**DOCTOR:**

(SOTTO) No, that's my job. So - a glory hunter, eh?

(CROSS BACK TO:)

**SCENE 20: INT. COMPUTER ROOM [CONTINUOUS]**

**KAYSTE:**

What is this facility? It is not of Sontaran design.

**KLATH:**

The full briefing is here, sir. (HANDS HIM A REPORT) It is a former civilian mining facility constructed by one of the lesser races. It has been used as a field research station by the 47<sup>th</sup>'s Tactical Unit for the last two cycles.

**KAYSTE:**

Research Unit? Back office functions? This situation goes from bad to worse. - Hear this. We are to investigate what has happened to the research team at this facility. I want this situation expedited as quickly as possible, so mount a full recce and report back at the double. There may be research specimens at large: local resistance is to be met with lethal force. The sun is now setting on this benighted rock. I want to be en-route to the battlefield before it rises again. Dismissed.

**12 x SONTARANS:**

Sir!

**TROOPER:**

Alpha Platoon with me to the upper deck. Beta take this level, Gamma and Delta to the lower levels.

(THE TROOPS STOMP OUT)

**KAYSTE:**

Where is the Control Deck?

**KLATH:**

This way, sir.

(THEY HEAD FOR THE CONTROL DECK. THE DOCTOR CLAMBERS OUT)

**DOCTOR:**

What's worse than being stuck in a lift with a Sontaran? Being stuck in a lift with an angry Sontaran who's not been allowed to the battle...

**SCENE 21: INT. ANTE-CHAMBER BETWEEN CELLS**

**SKEGG:**

No! Do not let them get close! Do not let them hurt me!

**MEL:**

Now, now. Calm down. We're here to help.

**JACKSON:**

Are we? I say kill him now. Get it over with.

**TETHNEKA:**

He is sick. You cannot kill a sick animal.

**JACKSON:**

He's not an animal, he's a soldier.

**TETHNEKA:**

Then where is his uniform? See, he has weaved it into a... quilt? I would wager it is not only his uniform that has unravelled. Can you not see his mind is broken?

**JACKSON:**

Can you not remember him torturing us? Him and his pals?

**MEL:**

Torture? He tortured you?

**TETHNEKA:**

This is Skegg. He was their leader.

**MEL:**

Then I admire your compassion, Tethneka.

**TETHNEKA:**

In my order we take a vow - to care for all sentient life. Whilst I may feel anger, my spiritual exercises give me mental calm.

**JACKSON:**

Oh, please. Clown. Surely you can't let this monster live?

**KETCH:**

Can I abstain? I prefer not to get involved in this sort of thing...

**MEL:**

What happened to you, Skegg? Please, tell us.

**SKEGG:**

My crew... my crew went mad!

**SCENE 22: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(KLATH PUNCHES UP INFORMATION ON THE DECK'S SYSTEMS)

**KAYSTE:**

This was a standard research unit, Klath? Crew of three: Tactical Commander, Research Lieutenant and junior officer...

**KLATH:**

Sir. Skegg, Stod and OverCadet Glarr respectively. Their service records are accessible here.

**KAYSTE:**

The Sontaran fleet is vast and glorious. We suffer casualties every day. The greater the odds, the greater the honour. Why then has Central Command sent us to investigate this minor situation?

**KLATH:**

I believe it is the nature of the communication from this base that focused their attention. With your permission, Field-Major?

**KAYSTE:**

Granted.

(KLATH PUNCHES UP GLARR'S MESSAGE ON THE MONITOR. AS WITH CARTER'S LOG, THE QUALITY IS TERRIBLE)

**GLARR:**

(DISTORT) Here... Do you hear me? They watch us... The shapes, the colours, the sounds... I... (FORCES HIMSELF TO BE LUCID) This is OverCadet Glarr, late of the 47<sup>th</sup> reporting. I am calling from tactical research base four-seven-seven oblique stroke two-point-six. This... This is a terrible place. We should not have come here. I fear for my life... Please help us. I beg you.

(BLASTER FIRE AND GUTTURAL LAUGHTER IN THE BACKGROUND)

This place has... The others are not as they should be. They have become... tangled. No, unravelled. Twisted. Untwisted. Untwisted. Un... Un... I cannot... I am afraid. No! No! Please!

(THE LAUGHTER AND BLASTER FIRE REACH A CRESCENDO. THE MESSAGE SHORTS OUT)

**KAYSTE:**

This is... unworthy of a Sontaran officer. Naked fear in the face of adversity? Entreaties for help and clemency? What could cause such mental and moral deterioration?

**KLATH:**

Questions Central Command are asking, sir.

**KAYSTE:**

Mmm. What about the research stock here? Could one of the specimens account for this? A mental attack of some kind?

**KLATH:**

According to records... Four are currently under examination. A Losturan - physically capable, but primitive - one human, one human mongrel...

**KAYSTE:**

Human?

**KLATH:**

A level-4 civilisation, gaining some influence in the western quadrant of Mutters Spiral, as yet of only minor tactical interest. - And one Tellaxi.

**KAYSTE:**

Tellaxi... They have mental abilities, do they not? Might that explain this?

**KLATH:**

Low level telepathy, but nothing which could account for mental degradation on this scale.

**KAYSTE:**

So... a mystery. I do not like mysteries.

(HIS WRIST COMM BLEEPS)

Report, Trooper!

**TROOPER #1:**

(DISTORTED) Vorn with Alpha Platoon on the upper deck. No signs of recent occupation, sir. But there are traces of blaster discharge. And... other artefacts.

**KAYSTE:**

Artefacts? Explain.

**TROOPER #1:**

(DISTORT) A blue box, around two metres tall, and two objects. Mineral. Function unclear.

**KAYSTE:**

A blue box? Scan for Artron energy in the vicinity. Anything else?



**TROOPER #1:**

(DISTORT) Some... pigmentation on the wall. Unknown provenance.

**KAYSTE:**

Very good, Trooper. Secure the deck. Await further instruction. Out.

(CLOSES THE LINK)

**KLATH:**

These objects may warrant inspection, in the absence of further intelligence.

**KAYSTE:**

Perhaps, Klath. Perhaps. But I have a schedule to keep. Let us see what the others find. These are the comms systems?

**KLATH:**

Patched into the civilian architecture.

(KAYSTE FLICKS A SWITCH. HIS SPEECH ECHOES AROUND THE BASE)

**KAYSTE:**

This is Field-Major Kayste of the Fifth Sontaran Fleet. No matter what may have occurred previously, this facility is now under my jurisdiction.

(CROSS TO:)

**SCENE 23: INT. ANTE-ROOM BETWEEN CELLS [CONTINUOUS]**

**KAYSTE:**

(TANNOY) Make no mistake, we will discover what has happened here and neutralise it if necessary. Co-operation is demanded. Resistance is futile. Out.

(THE MESSAGE CUTS OUT)

**TETHNEKA:**

Oh dear.

**KETCH:**

My thoughts exactly, my lady.

**JACKSON:**

Sounds to me like your friend is captured. Maybe even dead.

**MEL:**

You don't know the Doctor. Don't make any assumptions. If anyone can escape these 'Sontarans', it's him.

(THE DOORS START OPENING AROUND THEM)

See? He's trying the doors again.

(THE SECURITY DOOR OPENS)

And the right one at last!

**JACKSON:**

Then he's not the only one who's free!

(HE RACES FOR THE STAIRS)

**KETCH:**

Where you going?

**JACKSON:**

What? Me? I'm... going to look for the lobster. He's been gone a while now.

**MEL:**

The big creature that leapt out at us?

**TETHNEKA:**

I suppose 'big creature' is a relatively accurate description of Stettimer.

**MEL:**

The Doctor said he fell downstairs.

**JACKSON:**

Then downstairs I go! I would say wish me luck, but as you know, I don't need luck!

(HE RACES OFF)

**MEL:**

What is he talking about?

**KETCH:**

Quite a fan of himself is our Mr Jackson.

**MEL:**

I see. Well, that's his biggest mistake. With that door open, we should definitely look for the Doctor.

**SCENE 24: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(THE DOCTOR FLICKING SWITCHES)

**DOCTOR:**

Please, computer. Just open those doors properly before those Sontarans come back!

(2 x SONTARANS APPROACHING FROM OFF)

Ah. Well, I'll just have to hope that was enough. Back downstairs I go.

(HE RACES OUT AS KAYSTE AND KLATH RETURN THROUGH OPPOSITE DOOR)

**KAYSTE:**

This was a mining facility, Adjutant-Commander?

**KLATH:**

Derelict some eighty years, Field-Major. It was designated as a suitable location for the 47<sup>th</sup>'s research needs, being equidistant between...

**KAYSTE:**

I don't need the details, Klath. (REALISATION) This terminal is active. None of our technical staff have been here?

**KLATH:**

No sir.

**KAYSTE:**

And it conspicuously lacks dust, unlike everything else in this squalid hole. Which systems have been accessed? (HE POKES THE TERMINAL) There is a secondary over-ride on the containment network!

**KLATH:**

The facility's original control system, sir. It can be overridden from our command centre.

**KAYSTE:**

Something, or someone has been trying to open the containment cells below! We are not alone, Klath. Whoever has done this must be nearby...

**KLATH:**

I will reassign Alpha [Platoon to...]

(A WHIRR, THE LIGHTS POWER DOWN)

**KAYSTE:**

What? The lights have gone out!

**KLATH:**

Must be a power cut, sir. The geothermal converter works by -

**KAYSTE:**

I do not care how it works, get it fixed! Where is my torch...?  
(FUMBLES FOR TORCH)

**KLATH:**

(BLEEPS HIS WRIST-COM) Adjutant Commander Klath to landing craft. Send across Chief Technician Gyte -

(CLUNKING IN THE DARKNESS - THE DOOR MECHANISMS RUNNING OF THEIR OWN ACCORD)

**KAYSTE:**

Wait!

(PAUSE)

What was that noise?

**KLATH:**

Servo mechanisms functioning on residual power? Temperature differentials...

**KAYSTE:**

I will not wait in the darkness listening to conjecture!

(LIGHTS WHIRR ON AGAIN)

**KLATH:**

Ah! The lights...

(THEY WHIRR OFF AGAIN)

...are off again.

(LIGHTS WHIRR ON AND OFF)

**KAYSTE:**

This is intolerable. I will be on the Control Deck.

**KLATH:**

Sir, the door mechanism may be affected by the power shortages too...

**KAYSTE:**

(ROARS ANGRILY. THUMPS THE HALF-OPEN DOOR) Help me prise it open, then!

(THE DOOR MECHANISM GRINDS AS THEY FORCE THE DOOR. CROSS TO:)

**SCENE 25: INT. BASE UPPER LEVEL [CONTINUOUS]**

(TROOPER 1 OPERATES WRIST COM)

**TROOPER #1:**

Trooper Vorn reporting from observation deck, Field-Major.

**KAYSTE:**

(WALKING - DISTORT) Report.

**TROOPER #1:**

The box shows high deposits of Artron energy, sir. We have attempted to open it, but it appears impervious to non-specialist equipment.

**KAYSTE:**

(WALKING - DISTORT) Understood. Watch it for the time being, and ensure the upper deck is secured. Anything more?

**TROOPER #1:**

The lighting and power systems are failing, sir. Night has fallen.

**KAYSTE:**

(WALKING - DISTORT) We are aware of the situation. Guard that box, darkness or no, trooper. I will inspect it myself shortly. Kayste out.

(THE TRANSMISSION ENDS. CROSS TO:)

**SCENE 26: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK [CONTINUOUS]**

(KAYSTE AND KLATH WALK IN)

**KLATH:**

You suspect the presence of the Time Lord known as the Doctor, Field-Major?

**KAYSTE:**

The blue box makes it likely, Klath. You have read the briefings. If he is involved, that complicates matters. We must devise a suitable strategy.

**KLATH:**

I will prepare an intelligence report on his last known activities in this sector. His appearance is always a variable parameter, however.

**KAYSTE:**

The Doctor is famed for his duplicity, Klath. It must be expected.

(GYTE ENTERS)

**GYTE:**

Chief Technician Gyte reporting, sir.

**KAYSTE:**

Ah, Gyte. We are beset by power and lighting failures. Deal with them.

**GYTE:**

At once, sir.

**KAYSTE:**

I will confirm identification of the Time Lord's transportation device.

(KAYSTE AND GYTE HEAD FOR THE DOOR. THERE IS A WHIRR. THE SYSTEM POWERS UP AGAIN TEMPORARILY. THE DOOR CLUNKS BACK SHUT)

What is happening?

**GYTE:**

The door system appears affected too, sir.

(HE PRODS THE DOOR CONTROL)

I cannot open it, sir.



**KAYSTE:**

(ENRAGED) Does nothing work in this accursed place? Klath, we require aid!

(THEY STRAIN TO OPEN THE DOOR MANUALLY. EVENTUALLY SUCCEED)

(LEAVING) If I find the Doctor is behind this, I will crush the life from him with my bare hands!

**SCENE 27: INT. STAIRWELL**

(THE DOOR OPENS. MEL STEPS OUT. STEPS ARE COMING DOWN THE STAIRS TOWARDS THEM, BUT STILL QUITE DISTANT)

**MEL:**

Right, the last we heard from the Doctor, he -

**KETCH:**

Someone's coming!

**MEL:**

Quick, back inside!

(THEY DART BACK IN AND CLOSE THE DOOR. EVENTUALLY, THE STEPS GET LOUDER. THE DOCTOR APPEARS)

**DOCTOR:**

(WHISPER) Mel? Mel, are you there?

(ANOTHER SOUND BREEZES AROUND HIM:)

**CARTER:**

(UNINTELLIGIBLE WORDS, WHISPERED)

**DOCTOR:**

That's not Mel.

(THE NOISE COALESCES INTO A MORE DISTINCT 'GHOST'. AVA CARTER WALKS PAST, LIGHTLY)

**CARTER:**

(JUST AUDIBLE) We really must look into that second seam properly...

**DOCTOR:**

You! You're... what was it, Ava Carter? Yes, Ava Carter, head of research. I thought you were dead.

(SHE'S GONE AWAY DOWNSTAIRS)

No, don't go! Wait for me!

(HE FOLLOWS HER. SILENCE ON THE STAIRWELL FOR A FEW MOMENTS. THEN THE DOOR IS OPENED. MEL STEPS OUT, TETHNEKA AND KETCH BEHIND)

**MEL:**

Right, the coast's clear. Whoever was out here, they've gone.

**TETHNEKA:**

You will return shortly?

**MEL:**

Yes. Look after Skegg. We'll get help.

(MEL AND KETCH CLIMB)

**KETCH:**

Where exactly are we headed?

**MEL:**

If I know the Doctor, he'll have made for the TARDIS! Come on.  
Upstairs!

(THEY CLAMBER UP)

**SCENE 28: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(KLATH WORKS THE TERMINAL. THE DOOR OPENS. GYTE ENTERS)

**KLATH:**

Ah, Gyte. The power supply appears to have stabilised. Good work.

**GYTE:**

Thank you, Commander Klath. I have fixed the geothermal energy relay. But the entire system requires an overhaul.

**KLATH:**

I understand this research post was to be temporary. The 47<sup>th</sup> may have underestimated the level of dereliction. It appears to have infected the Sontaran systems too. (PRODS THE TERMINAL) I am trying to locate Commander Skegg's research notes on this terminal, but they appear inaccessible. See what you can find, Gyte. I will join Field-Major Kayste on the Upper Deck.

**GYTE:**

Sir.

(KLATH GOES)

**SCENE 29: INT. BOTTOM OF STAIRWELL/CAVES**

(THE DOCTOR REACHES THE CAVES. HIS VOICE ECHOES)

**DOCTOR:**

Hmm. These'll be the caves then. Miss Carter? Miss Carter!

(NO REPLY)

Where did she get to?

(HE MOVES INTO THE TUNNELS)

**SCENE 30: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(KAYSTE AND THREE SONTARANS MARCH IN)

**KAYSTE:**

Yes, Trooper. That is the Doctor's time capsule. We must keep our wits about us.

**TROOPER #1:**

Sir.

**KAYSTE:**

And this is the pigmentation on the wall you reported? Curious. The shape is familiar. It seemingly represents an exploding Rutan battle-cruiser, cursed be their tentacles.

**TROOPER #1:**

I had not realised that, Field-Major, but now...

**KAYSTE:**

I am a veteran of far more engagements than you, Trooper. There is evidence of mental imbalance in this facility's former crew. This crude attempt at graphic representation may be symptomatic of that. The pigment used... (HE SCRATCHES SOME PAINT, TASTES IT) Does this taste familiar?

**TROOPER #1:**

(SCRATCHING AND TASTING) Blood, sir.

**KAYSTE:**

Sontaran blood. This is a grave business, Trooper.

(KLATH ENTERS)

**KLATH:**

Commander Klath reporting, sir...

**KAYSTE:**

Ah, Klath. Observe the image on the wall here...

(THE LIGHTS CUT OUT WITH A WHIRR)

Accursed lighting system!

**SCENE 31: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(TERMINAL BEEPS)

**GYTE:**

Ah. The research notes. Accessing...

**SKEGG:**

(DISTORT) The cells are full of nightmares. My heart is full of care. I walk in lonely caverns...

**GYTE:**

Is this... encoded?

(WHIRR OF ANOTHER POWER FAILURE)

Another power failure? The lights?

**SKEGG:**

(DISTORT) A stranger on the stairs... (CHUCKLES) The words make patterns in my mind... Stairs, cares, shares, dares...

(ANOTHER METALLIC CLUNKING, AS BEFORE)

**GYTE:**

Who is there? No-one. The servo-mechanisms are operating independently. They must be slaved [to...]

**SKEGG:**

(DISTORT) Watch over your shoulder, wander in the dark. Dark, mark, dark... (CHUCKLES)

(METALLIC CLUNKING GETS CLOSER)

**GYTE:**

There must be an over-ride for the door servos... here.

(HE PUNCHES ANOTHER CONTROL. IT SHORTS, SENDING A SHOCK THROUGH HIM, STUNNING HIM)

Aaargh!

(HE SLUMPS ONTO THE TERMINAL)

**SKEGG:**

(DISTORT) The shadows in the dark, the watchers in the clouds...  
(CUTS OUT IN STATIC)

**SCENE 32: INT. CAVES**

(THE DOCTOR STUMBLES ALONG)

**DOCTOR:**

Miss Carter? Where are -

(STUMBLES OVER SOMETHING)

Oof. What on Earth did I just -?

(HE CROUCHES. JACKSON EMERGES)

**JACKSON:**

Mind that dead Sontaran.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, so it is. And you are?

**JACKSON:**

Colonel Anvil Jackson. You must be Melanie's phy- no, you're not her physician, are you? I know - you're her butler!

**DOCTOR:**

Sometimes it feels that way.

**JACKSON:**

Those creatures were keeping us prisoner. But you got us free, well done.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah. I did open the right door in the end, that's good to know.  
(MUSING) So the Sontarans upstairs weren't the first to arrive on this base. But what killed our friend here, I wonder?

(LIFTS A FEW LIMBS. LET'S THEM DROP)

**JACKSON:**

Judging by those claw marks on his face, reckon my crustacean chum was responsible. He was the first one you let out of the cells.

**DOCTOR:**

So this Sontaran was the creature following me and Mel when we first arrived? It was so dark at the time, I couldn't tell.

**JACKSON:**

I came down here to find him.



**DOCTOR:**

If this is his handiwork, are you sure that's wise?

**JACKSON:**

Can you think of someone better to have on your side? What about you? Why are you here?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, I followed a ghost. I think.

(CARTER'S VOICE ECHOES DISTANTLY WITHIN THE CAVES)

**CARTER:**

This way -

**DOCTOR:**

I think we should go... in that direction...

(HE HEADS OFF)

**SCENE 33: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

**KLATH:**

But the lights should be working, Field-Major! Gyte assured me he had fixed the geothermal energy relay.

**KAYSTE:**

Then Gyte will be disciplined for this intolerable inefficiency!

(METALLIC CLUNKING)

**KLATH:**

The servo-mechanisms appear to be...

**KAYSTE:**

Trooper. Ensure the door at the foot of the stairs does not clamp shut. I will not be trapped up here.

**TROOPER #1:**

Sir.

(SNAPS TO ATTENTION, THEN STUMBLES TO THE STAIRCASE. MORE MECHANICAL CLUNKING)

**TROOPER #2:**

What was that? I heard something in the darkness!

(HE LASHES OUT)

**TROOPER #3:**

Ah! I am under attack!

(A SCUFFLE ENSUES, RAPIDLY ESCALATING INTO A PROPER PUNCH-UP)

**TROOPER #2:**

Unhand me, scum!

**TROOPER #3:**

Face the might of the Sontaran Empire!

**KAYSTE:**

What is happening? Are we under attack?

(TROOPER #2 AND #3 GRUNT AS THE FIGHT GETS NASTY. A BLASTER IS DISCHARGED. THE LIGHTS WHIRR ON)

Lights, at last! Cease fire! Cease fire! Where is the enemy?

**KLATH:**

There is none... We appear to have been fighting ourselves.

(SONTARANS SHEEPISHLY ASSENT)

**KAYSTE:**

The Alpha Platoon? Brawling like an untrained rabble? You should recognise your comrades by night and day, not fall over each other at the first opportunity! Get out of my sight. I will draw up disciplinary charges later.

(THE COWED PLATOON FILE OUT)

This mental deterioration seems contagious.

(THEY MARCH OUT)

**SCENE 34: INT. STAIRWELL**

(MEL AND KETCH CLIMB)

**KETCH:**

My legs are my best feature, you see, Melanie. Besides my arms. It's because of my upbringing. Human mother. Indeterminate alien father. Means my limbs can contort beyond usual human limits. Like this. (GRUNTS OF EFFORT) There you go, a sausage dog... flamingo... [flock of geese...]

(SONTARANS ARE COMING DOWNSTAIRS)

**MEL:**

Quiet, Ketch! - Hear that?

**KETCH:**

They're coming this way!

**MEL:**

Back downstairs. Let's hope they're heading for the control room...

(THEY HEAD BACK A FEW STEPS. THE SONTARANS TROOP PAST INTO THE CONTROL ROOM. KAYSTE AND KLATH AT THE REAR)

**KAYSTE:**

I require the aid of Beta Patrol. They are made of stronger stuff than these reprobates...

**KLATH:**

I understand...

(THEY'RE GONE. MEL ADVANCES UPSTAIRS)

**MEL:**

Come on...

**SCENE 35: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(KAYSTE ENTERS. GYTE IS SLUMPED ACROSS THE DESK)

**KAYSTE:**

Technician Gyte! This is not the time for sleep!

**GYTE:**

(REVIVING) Wha... Uh, Field-Major!

**KAYSTE:**

Snap to it, man!

(GYTE ROUSES HIMSELF AND STANDS. SNAPS TO ATTENTION)

**GYTE:**

Sir!

**KAYSTE:**

Explain yourself!

**GYTE:**

I was accessing research notes on Commander Klath's orders, sir.

**KAYSTE:**

After you had "fixed" the power relay on this level, yes?

**GYTE:**

Sir. There must have been further damage to the system. It gave me an electric shock and rendered me unconscious. There was...

**KAYSTE:**

Was it the system or your own incompetence that incapacitated you, eh? I am meant to be commanding an elite unit!

**GYTE:**

Sir...

**KAYSTE:**

More excuses?

**GYTE:**

The research notes from the log.

**KAYSTE:**

What of them?

**SCENE 36: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(MEL ENTERS)

**MEL:**

Here we are, the viewing dome. The TARDIS landed in the next room...

(SHE MOVES ACROSS THE DOME, KETCH ENTERS)

**KETCH:**

Had to sort out a cabaret once for a court of Algurian nobles. Not a chuckle all night. Found out later from an exobiologist that the only thing they laugh at is different shades of the colour brown. I should have told the chef to burn the fish, they'd have had hysterics.

**MEL:**

Come on, Ketch, don't dawdle! I know it's a lovely view but don't get distracted...

**KETCH:**

These Sontarans don't have much of a sense of humour, either. They threatened to kill me. I told them I died every night for a month at the Betelgeuse Palladium. They didn't get it.

**MEL:**

Hold on. (STOPS)

**KETCH:**

Something the matter?

**MEL:**

Those statues. I could swear they've changed shape. Or moved...

**KETCH:**

This place does odd things to the mind. The only thing that changes shape here is me!

**MEL:**

What?

**KETCH:**

My contortionism's entertained rulers across the eight galaxies. Or was it nine galaxies? It was more than three certainly.

**MEL:**

Let's just get to the TARDIS.

**KETCH:**

You don't believe me? Watch and wonder... I am very bendy...

(HE STARTS STRETCHING)

**MEL:**

Are you feeling alright?

**KETCH:**

No, actually. It's a bit stuffy in here, isn't it? I think we need air.

**MEL:**

What?

**KETCH:**

One of those sculptures should make a good crack in the dome if you swing it right...

(HE MOVES FOR A STATUE. MEL GRABS HIM. IN THE BACKGROUND, THREE SONTARANS APPROACH FROM DOWNSTAIRS)

**MEL:**

No! The air out there, it isn't good for us!

**KETCH:**

Nonsense! Let go of me!

(SONTARANS CLUMP IN)

**TROOPER #4:**

No. Let go of each other.

**MEL:**

Oh great.

**SCENE 37: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(GYTE SWITCHES OFF THE LOG)

**GYTE:**

That is all the contents of the log, Field-Major.

**KAYSTE:**

This doggerel conforms to no ciphers I recognise. Although this was an intelligence unit... (PAUSE) I do not know what is occurring here, Technician, but I do not like it. And we certainly cannot expedite this investigation with a fluctuating power supply. Fix it. Properly this time. Dismissed.

**GYTE:**

Sir.

(GYTE EXITS. KAYSTE'S WRIST-COM BLEEPES)

**KAYSTE:**

(TO COM) Report.

**KLATH:**

(DISTORTED) Klath, sir. Beta Platoon apprehended two aliens on the observation deck. They have brought them to the COMPUTER ROOM. Do you wish to interrogate them?

**KAYSTE:**

Yes. (WRIST COM BLEEPES OFF) The first good news I've had all day.



**SCENE 38: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(MEL AND KETCH ARE BEING HELD BY KLATH AND SONTARAN TROOPERS)

**KETCH:**

Sounds like we get to meet the big cheese, then.

**MEL:**

I wonder if he'll be in a better mood than this lot.

**KLATH:**

Silence, scum!

(KAYSTE ENTERS)

Field-Major Kayste on deck!

(TROOPS STAND TO ATTENTION)

**KAYSTE:**

At ease.

(TROOPS AT EASE)

**KETCH:**

Oh, I'm always at ease, sonny Jim.

**KLATH:**

I said silence! (HE CLOUTS KETCH)

**KETCH:**

Ow!

**MEL:**

Don't treat him like that!

**KLATH:**

You speak when you are spoken to!

**KAYSTE:**

These are two of the research specimens, Klath?

**KLATH:**

Sir. According to the records, these must be the mongrel...

**KETCH:**

(SOTTO) Charming...

**KLATH:**

...and warrior-class human.

**MEL:**

(SOTTO) Does he mean me?

**KETCH:**

(SOTTO) Mr Jackson must have boasted on his application form.

**KAYSTE:**

The humans? Even without seeing the results of Commander Skegg's work, I think it unlikely either poses a threat to our glorious war-machine. Identify yourselves, tell me what happened to the research team and your part in it. Be brief and specific.

**MEL:**

Why should we help you?

**KETCH:**

Your deaths will be shorter.

**KETCH:**

Well that's quite an enticement isn't it, Ms Melanie?

**MEL:**

We don't know what happened. We're as much in the dark as you are.

**KETCH:**

We were only let out of our cells just now. Your chum Mr Skegg was carrying out his duties quite happily till then, I assure you.

**KAYSTE:**

You observed Commander Skegg during his research?

**KETCH:**

Oh yes. We had a jolly old time together. Can't say I got to know him well, but he seemed to be enjoying himself.

**KAYSTE:**

This man is an idiot. Sontaran military research is not meant to be a pleasurable experience, especially for captive specimens.

**KETCH:**

Each to his own, matey.

(KLATH WHACKS KETCH)

Ow!

**KLATH:**

You will show respect to a Sontaran officer!

**MEL:**

We've told you all we know! Stop hitting him!

**KAYSTE:**

You pleading is pathetic. You are the warrior-class human?

**MEL:**

I'm not a warrior.

**KAYSTE:**

Is there a mistake in the records, Klath? This is a human, is it not?

**KLATH:**

Yes, Field-Major.

**KAYSTE:**

Wait. These two were found on the Upper Deck, near to the Doctor's time capsule?

**KLATH:**

Yes sir.

**KAYSTE:**

What do you know of the Doctor?

**KETCH:**

Not sure about "the" Doctor. Could do with "a" Doctor, mind, the way my lumbago's been playing up...

**KLATH:**

(HISSES)

**KAYSTE:**

Are you the Doctor?

**KETCH:**

Well, they do say laughter is the best medicine.

(KAYSTE CHARGES HIS WEAPON)

**MEL:**

(DESPERATE) No! No, he's not!

(KAYSTE POWERS HIS GUN DOWN)

**KAYSTE:**

But you know who is?

(SILENCE)

You do not answer. Your silence betrays you.

**MEL:**

I won't help you. You'll have to kill me.

**KAYSTE:**

You forget. I can resume where Commander Skegg left off. This is a fully functioning facility for testing the durability of lesser races to physical and mental attack. I can wrack your body and mind with the most terrible pain, and I will do so until you lead me to the Doctor.

**MEL:**

I'll never do that.

**KAYSTE:**

You show courage. Or stupidity. I will enjoy finding out which.

(SONTARAN TROOPERS ENTER WITH TETHNEKA AND SKEGG)

**TROOPER #5:**

Field-Major! Trooper Vard reporting. We found two more. The Tellaxi [and -]

**SKEGG:**

Don't take me upstairs! No further! (WAILS)

**KAYSTE:**

Great Sontar!

**KLATH:**

Commander Skegg!

**TETHNEKA:**

Your comrade is unwell. You should help him.

**KAYSTE:**

Silence, alien scum! (HE GRABS SKEGG) You will cease this noise!

**SKEGG:**

Don't let it... Down in the dark... It... (SOBS QUIETLY)

**KAYSTE:**

Control yourself!

(SKEGG DOESN'T)

**KAYSTE:**

Klath, secure these prisoners. I will take Commander Skegg to the Control Deck for interrogation. Move!

(KAYSTE BUNDLES SKEGG OUTSIDE)

**SKEGG:**

(GOING) No! Let me go! Don't make [me -]

(DOOR HISSES SHUT)

**SCENE 39: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(DOOR HISSES OPEN. KAYSTE FLINGS SKEGG INTO THE ROOM. THE DOOR HISSES SHUT. SKEGG MANAGES TO STOP SOBBING AS KAYSTE STALKS AROUND HIM)

**KAYSTE:**

I see from your insignia that you hold the rank of Tactical Commander.

**SKEGG:**

That was... before...

**KAYSTE:**

Silence! You may not interrupt an officer of senior rank! What has happened to the rest of your uniform, the rest of your research team? Account for yourself!

(SKEGG SLUMPS INTO A CHAIR)

How dare you sit before your superior! You forget yourself! To your feet! You dishonour your uniform and clone batch.

**SKEGG:**

My... clone batch?

(KAYSTE PUNCHES UP RECORDS ON THE MONITOR)

**KAYSTE:**

Your record states you served five tours in the Intelligence Corps before taking over this facility?

**SKEGG:**

Batch... Catch, hatch, latch...

**KAYSTE:**

What is this gibberish? Do you take me for a fool? I can have you executed without legal process if I find evidence of dereliction of duty. And from the sorry remains of this facility I find evidence of gross dereliction.

**SKEGG:**

Dense. Density. Destiny. De de de de...

**KAYSTE:**

You shame your fallen comrades with your feeble-mindedness and irrationality!

**SKEGG:**

The fallen? Yes, the fallen. If I should fall... I should fall deep and far.

**KAYSTE:**

Do you refer to the lower levels? Your work in the cells?

**SKEGG:**

Below the surface, in the dark. In the walls...

**KAYSTE:**

What happened to the rest of your crew? Where is OverCadet Glarr, who sent out that thoroughly dishonourable distress beacon? The Rutan scum would laugh at us - had they mouths - if they intercepted such a call. Have you nothing to say?

**SKEGG:**

The... clouds. They scare me.

**KAYSTE:**

How dare you! A Sontaran knows no fear! No terror! And you slump there babbling inanities!

(KAYSTE GRABS HIM)

I will throttle the life from you myself, you weak-minded coward!

**SCENE 40: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(MEL, KETCH AND TETHNEKA ARE STILL CAPTIVE.)

**TETHNEKA:**

(SOTTO) They found us in the cells. We had little option but to accompany them.

**MEL:**

(SOTTO) It couldn't be helped.

**KETCH:**

(SOTTO) They can be persuasive.

**MEL:**

(SOTTO) Are you alright, Mr Ketch? They didn't hit you too hard?

**KETCH:**

(SOTTO) Hard enough, my dear, but I'll live.

**TETHNEKA:**

(SOTTO) I thought they would have cared for one of their own in distress. Is that not the prerogative of all civilised race?

**KLATH:**

Silence! The prisoners are not to confer!

(GYTE ENTERS)

**GYTE:**

Technician Gyte reporting, Commander. I have secured the power relays. But an important route for the power goes through the mining control here. I can make the door systems function properly if I restart them here.

**KLATH:**

Proceed.

**GYTE:**

I am... unfamiliar with human technology. Its primitive configuration is confusing compared to the elegance of Sontaran systems.

**KETCH:**

Oh, a fellow artiste!

**KLATH:**

That was the last time you speak, mongrel.

(HE GRABS KETCH)



**KETCH:**

Yargh!

**KLATH:**

I will tear you limb from limb.

**MEL:**

Stop! Don't hurt him!

**KLATH:**

Why shouldn't I?

**MEL:**

Because... Because I'm a computer programmer. I can help with the systems. And I will. If you let him go.

**KLATH:**

You are lying to save your comrade.

**MEL:**

No really, I was working on that terminal before! I'll show your technician. Just stop hurting Mr Ketch.

(KLATH RELEASES KETCH)

**KETCH:**

(WHIMPER)

**KLATH:**

Show Technician Gyte. Trooper, cover her.

**MEL:**

Ok, I'm going. (SHE CROSSES OVER) Here. It's a hexadecimal control code. (PUNCHES THE KEYS) There, we can start rebuilding the command system...

**GYTE:**

And trace where the power outlets are shorting. Excellent!

**SCENE 41: INT. TUNNELS**

(THE DOCTOR AND JACKSON ENTER AND IMMEDIATELY GAG)

**JACKSON:**

Urgh... that smell...

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. It looks like that Sontaran wasn't the only dead thing down here. Must be the original crew...

(HE MOVES INTO THE CAVE)

**JACKSON:**

You're not going further in?

**DOCTOR:**

Interesting... you see the gems in the wall?

**JACKSON:**

The what? - Oh, yeah.

**DOCTOR:**

They look to be the same colour as the clouds outside.

**JACKSON:**

The look to be valuable, more like...

(THEY CROSS THE CAVES)

**SCENE 42: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(GYTE FLICKS SWITCHES)

**GYTE:**

What is this switch?

(THE COMPUTER PINGS. AVA CARTER IS BACK)

**CARTER:**

(MONITOR) This is Ava Carter! Mayday, I repeat Mayday.

**MEL:**

It's the log left by the original crew. I tried to access it before.

**CARTER:**

(DISTORT) I have sent out a distress beacon on all known frequencies, but I think it's too late.

**KLATH:**

This may be relevant to the current situation.

**CARTER:**

(DISTORT) The events of the last few days have driven us to the edge of madness and beyond. I've just sealed half my crew in the caves, after they tried killing the rest of us. The others are upstairs in the observation deck, worshipping the stones. We knew what we were doing when we signed up but none of our training prepared us for any of this. - We kept seeing shapes in things. Patterns. Our thoughts were not our own. Then the arguments. The fights, the rioting.. (PAIN) There's a blizzard in my head! We thought we were experimenting on the rocks; but the rocks were experimenting on us! I... I am leaving the base. Going outside. Clear my thoughts. My thoughts fly up... The clouds... I... must...

(THE LOG SHORTS OUT INTO A 'DEAD-AIR' TONE)

**MEL:**

Those poor people.

**KLATH:**

The human mind is primitive and clearly susceptible.

**TETHNEKA:**

Did you see your colleague Skegg?

**KETCH:**

If there's something in the water we've all been drinking it,  
matey...

**SCENE 43: INT. TUNNELS**

(THE DOCTOR IS APPROACHING THE WALL)

**CARTER:**

(GHOSTLY) Take the stones.

**DOCTOR:**

Did you hear that?

**CARTER:**

(GHOSTLY) Take the stones!

**JACKSON:**

I hear everything. My senses are honed to the highest degree. What was it?

**DOCTOR:**

A voice.

**JACKSON:**

No, didn't get that.

**DOCTOR:**

The gems... they want me to take them. Remove them from the wall!

**JACKSON:**

Well, why not? They'll be worth a pretty penny...

(HE STARTS PULLING GEMS OUT. THERE'S AN ORGANIC GRINDING NOISE IN THE WALL - REMINISCENT OF THE DOOR MECHANISMS, BUT MORE SQUELCHY)

**DOCTOR:**

What was that?

**JACKSON:**

Sounded a bit like the grinding in the walls upstairs. Happens from time to time.

**DOCTOR:**

That's not mechanical, that's something else.

**JACKSON:**

Some... thing?

(THE SAME GRINDING IN THE WALL AGAIN)

**DOCTOR:**

(TO WALL) What are you?

(THE NOISE GROWS LOUDER, SQUELCHY, POLYPS PULSING, MINERAL SEAMS SHIFTING)

Are you trying to tell me something?

**JACKSON:**

What are you on about, talking to the wall?

**DOCTOR:**

Quiet! There's something else in here.

(THE ORGANIC SCRAPING AND GRINDING IN THE WALL GETS LOUDER)

There, in the wall, I can feel it. Growing, changing, about to burst through. Something alive in the walls. - What do you want?

(THE GRINDING REACHES A CRESCENDO. A CACOPHONY OF SOUNDS ORGANIC, ELECTRONIC AND SUBTERRANEAN)

**JACKSON:**

Doctor! Doctor, what's happening!

**DOCTOR:**

Argh! It's in my mind! (CRIES OUT IN PAIN)

(CLOSING THEME)

**PART THREE**

(OPENING THEME)

**REPRISE:**

(THE ORGANIC SCRAPING AND GRINDING IN THE WALL GETS LOUDER)

*There, in the wall, I can feel it. Growing, changing, about to burst through. Something alive in the walls. - What do you want?*

(THE GRINDING REACHES A CRESCENDO. A CACOPHONY OF SOUNDS ORGANIC, ELECTRONIC AND SUBTERRANEAN)

**JACKSON:**

*Doctor! Doctor, what's happening!*

**DOCTOR:**

*Argh! It's in my mind! (CRIES OUT IN PAIN)*

CONTINUES INTO:

**SCENE 44: INT. TUNNELS**

**JACKSON:**

(TO SELF) Seems like you need rescuing, old feller. I've got more than enough of these diamond things...

**DOCTOR:**

But the walls... The mineral seam in the wall...

**JACKSON:**

Did those monsters use their fear inducer on you, or something? Don't you worry. You're with me, now. And if you value your neck, that's where you'll stay... Come on!

(HE DRAGS THE DOCTOR OUT)

**SCENE 45: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(GYTE WORKS AT THE COMPUTER OFF, MEL'S GROUP TALK QUIETLY)

**MEL:**

The date of Doctor Carter's log entry suggests that madness of theirs happened eighty years ago. That's a long time.

**KETCH:**

Long enough.

**MEL:**

How long have you been here?

**TETHNEKA:**

My ship was intercepted by a Sontaran cruiser two lunar cycles ago.

**KETCH:**

Not much longer than me. The Unbelievable was boarded, most of the crew and passengers killed. I got off lightly. Some upsides to being a freak, I suppose...

**MEL:**

You're not a freak, Mr Ketch. When we get out of this, which I promise you we will do, we'll find you a place where you'll feel right at home.

**GYTE:**

You, orange human!

**MEL:**

You mean me?

**GYTE:**

I see no others with your plumage. You will assist with this piece of coding. I cannot see its logic.

**KETCH:**

What's the magic word?

**GYTE:**

Sontaran science and technology are the most advanced in the universe. We do not believe in "magic".

**TETHNEKA:**

You are spiritually bereft.

**KLATH:**

Enough dissembling! Assist or your fellows die!



**MEL:**

Yes, okay, I'm assisting, those were the magic words we were waiting for!

(BEFORE SHE CAN JOIN, KAYSTE THUNDERS IN)

**KAYSTE:**

Chief Gyte!

**GYTE:**

Field-Major!

**KAYSTE:**

I intended to send Skegg to Punishment Cell One. But now I find it has ceased functioning! Is this due to your meddling?

**GYTE:**

No, Field-Major! I have only now accessed the human command systems!

**KAYSTE:**

Does nothing in this sorry place work? Is all the technology faulty - human and Sontaran?

**GYTE:**

I am seeking to ascertain...

**KAYSTE:**

No more excuses! This is either deliberate incompetence...

**GYTE:**

I submit myself for summary execution if I have failed in my duties, Field-Major!

**KAYSTE:**

Silence! Either deliberate incompetence... or there is another factor at work.

**KLATH:**

Field-Major, there may be. New intelligence has come to light. The civilian workforce that constructed this facility perished in a way that has relevance to the current situation.

**MEL:**

It's true. It looks like they all went crazy.

(KLATH'S WRIST-COMM BLEEPS)

**KAYSTE:**

Kayste. Report.

**TROOPER #1:**

(DISTORT) Alpha platoon reporting after recharging, sir.  
Requesting redeploy.

**KAYSTE:**

Secure the lower levels. Ensure the punishment cells are guarded.

**TROOPER #1:**

(DISTORT) Understood.

(THE COMMUNICATOR CUTS OUT)

**KAYSTE:**

You. The Doctor's companion. This is his doing. It would be advisable to relate all you know of the anomalies here, if you value the lives of your fellow prisoners.

**MEL:**

That's your automatic response, is it? Threatening murder? You don't need promises of violence, Kayste. This is nothing to do with the Doctor! Whatever's happening here is dangerous to all of us, we've no reason not to help you! Menacing my friends won't get me on side.

**KAYSTE:**

I am a Sontaran warrior. I do not need you 'on side'. My side is more than adequate.

**MEL:**

(SIGHS) All I know is what we found in the computer log.

**KAYSTE:**

Then summarise. Bullet-points and occasional direct quotation will suffice.

**MEL:**

It's like A-levels all over again...

**SCENE 46: INT. STAIRWELL**

(THE DOCTOR AND JACKSON CLIMB THE STAIRS)

**JACKSON:**

Come on. Come on, just a bit further...

**DOCTOR:**

(RECOVERED) I think we're far enough from the caves now, Mr Jackson. And their malign influence...

**JACKSON:**

Ah. You're back with me. What happened down there? You went loopy.

**DOCTOR:**

There was some kind of force, trying to get inside my head and control my mind. There's something wrong on this planet, Jackson. Something's manipulating us. Perhaps those gemstones in the walls...

**JACKSON:**

(DIGGING THEM OUT) What, these gemstones?

**DOCTOR:**

I wouldn't carry those around with you, if I was you.

**JACKSON:**

Well, you're not me, and you're not carrying them, so tough. (POCKETS THEM) They look valuable to me. If I get out of here, I'm going to be rich.

**DOCTOR:**

I don't understand people like you, Mr Jackson.

**JACKSON:**

I know. But don't worry. This stuff's my bread and butter. You're not used to this, and you must be very frightened, but trust me. You've picked the right man to stick with.

**DOCTOR:**

But don't you see? Something's happening here...

**JACKSON:**

Relax. I'll protect you.

(A GHOSTLY VOICE ECHOES UP THE STAIRWELL FROM THE CAVES)

**CARTER:**

(DISTANT) Come back. Come back to the caves!

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, Chief Mineralogist Carter. Or her ghost. I saw her before. She led me down there. Or rather... lured me down there.

**JACKSON:**

A woman, eh? Typical. Trying to lead you astray.

**CARTER:**

(DISTANT) Return to us.

**DOCTOR:**

And she's trying to drag me back again...

**JACKSON:**

Don't worry about a thing. Anvil's here.

**CARTER:**

(DISTANT) Join me.

**DOCTOR:**

Not this time...

(THEY CONTINUE UP THE STAIRS)

**SCENE 47: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(KAYSTE INTERROGATES MEL WITH TETHNEKA AND KETCH)

**KAYSTE:**

The humans had mental breakdowns? Why?

**MEL:**

It's not entirely clear, but it seems there was something in the rocks.

**KAYSTE:**

'Something'? Explain.

**MEL:**

Something living.

**KAYSTE:**

A life-form dwelling in rocks? This does not correspond to our current intelligence for this sector.

**TETHNEKA:**

It is obvious you are creatures of very limited intelligence.

**KAYSTE:**

Silence, Tellaxi! Any further insolence, and I shall crush your bones.

**KETCH:**

(TO TETHNEKA) Steady on, my dear. You've been sharing cells with me and my big mouth too long.

**KLATH:**

The Sontaran Science Directorate has made certain conjectures regarding silicone-based life-forms, Field-Major.

**KAYSTE:**

I do not deal in conjecture, Klath! I am not convinced this "log" you speak of is even real.

**MEL:**

But I can show you. Or Chief Gyte can -

**KAYSTE:**

Chief Gyte is of lower rank, I may ignore his testimony. And your association with the Doctor disbars you from trustworthiness.

**KETCH:**

They do like long words, don't they?

**KLATH:**

You have been warned, half-breed!

**KAYSTE:**

I think all this is a fabrication, designed to hide the Doctor's involvement.

**MEL:**

Why bother asking questions, if you know the answers already?

**TETHNEKA:**

His savage mind is closed. Typical of a lesser race.

**KAYSTE:**

A lesser race?! Weakling scum like you are in no position to judge the glorious Sontaran war-machine! I see how this goes... The Doctor used you in his cowardly attack on this facility, and augmented your feeble mental powers with Gallifreyan quackery.

**KETCH:**

That's worth at least a hundred on a Triple Word Score.

**KAYSTE:**

He is known for enlisting the dregs of the galaxy in his campaigns. You are all in his employ, infiltrating this facility from the inside! Do you deny this?

**KETCH:**

Sounds like you've got it figured out, matey-bob.

**KAYSTE:**

Then tell me what transpired here or face the consequences.

**MEL:**

They've never even met the Doctor. I'm his friend. We travel together, but it's not like you said. We were answering a [distress beacon.]

**KAYSTE:**

You are lying!

**MEL:**

Why won't you believe us?

**TETHNEKA:**

Do not fret, child. They believe nothing, except the hollow myth of their own superiority.

**KLATH:**

Myth?

**TETHNEKA:**

You are deluded creatures. Your lives have no meaning beyond empty parade-ground bombast as you fight your unwinnable war.

**KAYSTE:**

You will not malign Sontaran military prowess!

**TETHNEKA:**

You have fought pointlessly for so long, you are mere ghosts in armoured shells. What is there left of you? Do you even remember what you are fighting for?

**KLATH:**

The Sontaran Military Covenant is pure and perfect. It is not for you to question!

**KAYSTE:**

We are not here to debate Sontaran military philosophy; since you are unwilling to furnish us with the necessary intelligence, we will use additional means of persuasion. The sun is rising, and with it the dust clouds. We will see if exposure to this planet's elements loosens your tongues.

**MEL:**

You can't do that.

**KAYSTE:**

Even if you do not talk, you will provide useful data about the durability of human - or Tellaxi - skin in such hostile environments. I am sure Commander Skegg would have approved. Take them to the airlocks!

**SCENE 48: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(THREE SONTARANS MARCHING ABOUT)

**TROOPER #4:**

And forward and left and forward and left and halt! Present arms.

(THE SONTARANS DO)

Present legs!

(THE SONTARANS DO)

Step one and right, step two and left. Step, ball, change, and -

(HE STOPS. THEY FOLLOW HIS COMMANDS THEN STOP TOO)

Does this... seem unusual to you? Our... drill?

**TROOPER #6:**

No.

**TROOPER #7:**

It is how we have always drilled.

**TROOPER #4:**

I thought so. I merely needed confirmation. Then it is excellent work. Your drill sergeant instructed you well. (HE MOVES TOWARDS THE WINDOW. UNBEKNOWNST TO THE TROOPS, THEY'RE BEING AFFECTED BY THE MADNESS OF THE PLANET) The sun rises. It is good we wait here, and can witness the view. To miss it would be most regretful.

**TROOPER #6:**

True. Why do we guard statues and boxes? They do not move.

**TROOPER #4:**

It is only beauty that moves. (BEAT) Let us resume. Step one and slide, step two and march...



**SCENE 49: INT. CORRIDOR**

(KLATH AND TROOPER PRODDING MEL, KETCH AND TETHNEKA TOWARDS THE AIRLOCK)

**KLATH:**

Move! The airlock is this way...

**KETCH:**

Oh well, nice to be seeing more of the place than just the cells.

**MEL:**

At least we'll get fresh air. Kayste isn't thinking straight. Why didn't he listen?

**TETHNEKA:**

You overestimate these beings and their capacity for rational thought.

**KLATH:**

Do not confer. Walk quicker.

**MEL:**

But surely you can tell us, Commander Klath. Is Kayste usually this unreasonable?

**KLATH:**

Field-Major Kayste is my superior and in command.

**MEL:**

You're an officer, too. You must have a responsibility to question his orders if they seem... erratic?

**KETCH:**

Doolally, even?

**KLATH:**

Mine is not to question. I am no mutineer.

**MEL:**

Of course not. But what if his orders compromise your mission?

**KLATH:**

Our mission is to return to the Hammerhead Nebula as soon as possible. (STOPS) We are here. Trooper, secure these primitives in the constraints.

**MEL:**

You saw the log, Klath. You can't ignore that evidence. Something is happening here!

**KLATH:**

That is no longer my concern, nor yours. You are research specimens. Your deaths will provide useful data for the war-effort. Enter the airlock.

(KLATH HITS THE AIRLOCK CONTROL. THE DOOR OPENS WITH A PRESSURISED HISS)

**MEL:**

Klath!

**KLATH:**

(CONSIDERS FOR A SECOND) Die well.

(HE GOES)

**KETCH:**

He's quite polite for a Sontaran, really.

**TROOPER #5:**

Get into the constraints, scum!

**KETCH:**

You, not so much.

**MEL:**

It's like a clothes rack.

**TETHNEKA:**

It must have been used to hang compression suits.

(TROOPER BUCKLES THEM IN)

**MEL:**

Ow! You don't have to be so rough!

**KETCH:**

Quite a snug fit, isn't it?

**TROOPER #5:**

(BLEEPING WRIST-COM) Trooper Slod reporting. The specimens are secured in the airlock.

(HE EXITS, CLOSING THE PRESSURISED DOOR)

**KETCH:**

Well, this is nice, isn't it?

**MEL:**

The Doctor will have a plan, I'm sure.

**TETHNEKA:**

If the Sontarans have not killed him already...

**SCENE 50: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(KAYSTE ENTERS THE DECK MID-CONVERSATION OVER HIS WRIST COMM)

**KAYSTE:**

Find the Doctor! He must be somewhere. Kayste out! (SWITCHES IT OFF)

**SKEGG:**

(WHIMPERS)

**KAYSTE:**

Ah. Skegg. Another disgusting display of cowardice. What is this... mat? Is it - was it once your uniform?!

**SKEGG:**

I weaved it myself.

**KAYSTE:**

You deface the uniform it is your privilege to wear! The Doctor must have used powerful psychological weaponry on you...

**SKEGG:**

Doctor? Yes, I need a doctor...

**KAYSTE:**

The Doctor! Not a Doctor! What do you know of his attack on this facility?

**SKEGG:**

I... The attack? It came from within. And without... The clouds...

**KAYSTE:**

Yes, research data concerning the effects of the dust clouds will arrive shortly. Now... (PUNCHES THE LOG UP) You were an officer with an exemplary record, a veteran of hard-fought campaigns. Your researches were commended by Central Command for their thoroughness. This makes your mental deterioration all the more dishonourable. And surprising...

**SCENE 51: INT. AIRLOCK**

**KETCH:**

Well, this is a fine way to end up. Thought I'd die on stage, not somewhere like this. I mean, I never wanted to join the Space Fleet, or anything, despite the adverts: travel the galaxy, seek out new life-forms and new civilisations, flog 'em stuff, if they don't want it, blow 'em up and nick their planet. No, I thought clown a more honourable - and safe - vocation.

**TETHNEKA:**

Mr Ketch, I find it better to face death with more calm and fewer words.

**MEL:**

We're not finished yet, Tethneka.

**KETCH:**

I crave your indulgence a moment longer. I'm afraid I didn't give you a decent performance of my act when I had that funny turn, Ms Melanie. (TWISTS IN HIS SHACKLES) I think Mr Kayste would have done better to have read Mr Skegg's notes before he tried tying up a contortionist... And ta-da! (GRUNT OF EFFORT, CLICK OF VERTEBRAE - AND HE'S FREE)

**MEL:**

Mr Ketch, you're free! Will your neck stay like that?

**KETCH:**

Just a tick. (GRISTLY SOUND AS HE CORRECTS HIMSELF) Oof! There we go! Some advantages to hollow bones, eh? Now, let's have a look at the two of you.

**SCENE 52: INT. STAIRWELL**

(THE DOCTOR AND JACKSON REACH THE TOP OF THE STAIRS)

**DOCTOR:**

Well, here's the computer hub...

(HE MAKES TO HEAD ON IN)

**JACKSON:**

You're not going in there? The Sontarans are inside.

**DOCTOR:**

I know.

**JACKSON:**

But you're unarmed!

**DOCTOR:**

I have my brain. That's weapon enough.

**JACKSON:**

This is a mining facility. There'll be drills, cutting tools. I'm sure we can find something for protection...

**DOCTOR:**

There's no time. I'd rather make sure Mel and the others are safe.

**JACKSON:**

And I'd rather make sure I am. Butler - for the moment, this is where we part.

**DOCTOR:**

I thought it might be. Very well, Mr Jackson. If you get in trouble - aim for the vent on the back of the Sontaran neck.

**JACKSON:**

Sorry?

**DOCTOR:**

You'll understand.

(THE DOCTOR WALKS OFF)

**JACKSON:**

(SHOUTING OUT) Don't worry! I'll come back for you! Probably. Right. Where's that storeroom? (HEADS OFF)

**SCENE 53: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(KLATH ENTERS)

**KLATH:**

The alien specimens are secure in the airlock, Field-Major.

**KAYSTE:**

Good.

(PAUSE)

You have something more to report, Commander?

**KLATH:**

I do not believe the mining log is a fabrication, sir. Its data may be of value.

**KAYSTE:**

Any situation where the Doctor is involved will be filled with traps and counter-intelligence, Klath. However, observing Skegg's state of mind, it seems the Doctor has used strong psychological techniques that could prove useful. We may further justify this unwelcome intrusion into our schedule. You say this "log" provides a depiction of the humans' mental deterioration?

**KLATH:**

Yes, sir.

**KAYSTE:**

We will perform another experiment. This weakling coward will assist. Take Skegg to this log, secure him, and make him witness the humans' descent into hysteria. It may shock him into lucidity. Have him observed for any useful data that ensues.

**KLATH:**

Very good sir. This way, Commander.

**SKEGG:**

No! I cannot be out there in the...

(KAYSTE CLOUTS HIM, THROWS HIM TOWARDS THE DOOR)

**KAYSTE:**

Stop your snivelling! You are no longer a commander. Klath! This wretch is to be considered stripped of all rank and privileges from now on.

**KLATH:**

But, by what authority...

**KAYSTE:**

Do you question me, Klath?

**KLATH:**

No, Field-Major! But this is most irregular...

**KAYSTE:**

I am the sole authority on this mission! Central Command is half a galaxy away. We do not have the luxury of due process! Take this... nothing of a Sontaran and begin the experiment.

**KLATH:**

Sir! Move, Comm- (STOPS) You.

(HE BUNDLES THE WHIMPERING SKEGG THROUGH THE DOOR)

**KAYSTE:**

Now for the prisoners in the airlock...



**SCENE 54: INT. AIRLOCK**

(MEL'S SHACKLES DROP)

**MEL:**

Oh thank you, Mr Ketch. Those shackles weren't exactly comfortable.

**KETCH:**

My pleasure, madam.

(THE EXTERIOR DOOR OPENS)

**MEL:**

Oh, no.

**KAYSTE:**

(TANNOY DISTORTED) Alien scum! Your attempts to free yourselves will prove fruitless. You are now exposed to the atmosphere outside. A dust cloud approaches which will suffocate you and shred your skin whether you are restrained or not.

**MEL:**

You're back, are you? Thanks for the warning! - Tethneka, we need to look at the door controls. - Tethneka?

(SILENCE)

**KETCH:**

Awfully quiet. Think she's having a funny turn.

**MEL:**

No time for that. There must be some way of unlocking this door from the inside - you know, to prevent accidents. Even with the outer hatch open, there'll be an over-ride, there must be! - Excuse me, Tethneka. (SHE STARTS PRODDING THE CONTROLS)

**KAYSTE:**

(DISTORTED) Do not try to escape! You [will...]

(HE CUTS OUT AS MEL TAPS A BUTTON)

**MEL:**

At least the mute button's clearly labelled. Let's see about the rest...

**SCENE 55: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(SKEGG IS STRAPPED IN FRONT OF THE MONITOR. GYTE SUPERVISING. THE SCREAMS OF THE MINERALOGISTS CAN BE HEARD IN PLAYBACK)

**SKEGG:**

(WHIMPERS)

**GYTE:**

These humans do not die well. Cowering in darkness, hunting then hunted. There is no sense in their actions.

**SKEGG:**

There are patterns everywhere. Especially in the darkness...

**GYTE:**

Interesting you should see [a -]

(A PANEL STARTS BLEEPING)

The energy relays show a fault again! Their repair must take precedence over this experiment. A pity.

**SKEGG:**

Do not leave me alone!

**GYTE:**

Former Commander Skegg! To show fear in the face of battle is one thing! But mere moving images? Have some decorum. I will return forthwith.

**SKEGG:**

(MOANS)

(GYTE LEAVES. THE MINERALOGIST'S SCREAMS AND ALL MANNER OF HORRIBLE NOISES REACH A CRESCENDO, BEFORE FOOTSTEPS APPROACH FROM THE ENTRANCE AND THE SCREEN IS FLICKED OFF)

**SKEGG:**

Thank you!

**DOCTOR:**

No need for any more video nasties today, I think. Former Commander Skegg...

**SKEGG:**

Gyte? Your voice has changed. (SOBS)

**DOCTOR:**

No, I'm not Gyte. I was waiting outside. I wanted him out of the way, so I sent him on a little errand. I'm the Doctor. And you're in distress. Why are you tied up like this?

**SKEGG:**

They wish to know what happened here. Before... No! The shapes in the darkness! The sounds they weave... No!

**DOCTOR:**

It's alright. I won't hurt you. Is that why they were showing you footage of the previous crew?

**SKEGG:**

They perished in the darkness. But I can hide from them there.

**DOCTOR:**

From whom? The last crew?

**SKEGG:**

No! The faces. In the clouds...

**DOCTOR:**

Faces?

**SKEGG:**

We saw shapes as the dust clouds floated past... Vast... Fast... It made no sense! There were no such shapes! But still we saw them! Ships, faces, creatures. They taunted us... Stod made images, with dust and rust and must. Not maps. Not diagrams. They have no purpose! Just pictures! Battles in space, explosions, nebulas... He daubed them on the walls. The colours, he looked for right colours!

**DOCTOR:**

The mural on the staircase, yes.

**SKEGG:**

He used Glarr's blood - just the right shade of green, he said.

**DOCTOR:**

Eat your heart out, Jackson Pollock. What did you do, Skegg?

**SKEGG:**

The darkness. The voices in the darkness below. They sounded like shapes. Patterns. I could touch the sounds. I brought them to the surface. I carried thoughts that were not my own. I found two sculptures upstairs. I made them into the shapes of... I tried to put order on them!

**DOCTOR:**

You tried to tame the muse...

**SKEGG:**

Shapes I could understand! Shapes, ships, shame... But I could not stop, I hid in the darkness. I could not stop the shapes, the structures building around me, the colours I could hear, and this...

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, a quilt. Did you weave that out of your uniform?

**SKEGG:**

Yes, the patterns forced themselves out of my fingers, lingers... What is this? Why can I not stop it? Why?

**DOCTOR:**

It's quite beautiful, Skegg. I never thought I'd compliment a Sontaran on a matter of aesthetics, but there's a first time for everything.

(GYTE ENTERS)

**GYTE:**

Human!

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, glad you could join us! Gyte, I assume? Power relays fixed?

**GYTE:**

Someone recalibrated the thermal relays. I now see who...

(JACKSON CHARGES IN FROM THE ENTRANCE)

**JACKSON:**

(LEAPING OUT) Recalibrate this, you monster!

(JACKSON GRABS HIM FROM BEHIND)

**DOCTOR:**

Jackson, no!

(JACKSON STABS GYTE IN THE VENT WITH HIS LASER CUTTER. GYTE DIES HORRIBLY)

**GYTE:**

Aaargh!

**JACKSON:**

Said I'd come back. There - laser cutter, right in that vent. Found it in the stores. Thanks for that neck tip, butler. This guy's not getting up again.

**DOCTOR:**

I thought you'd knock them out, not stab them in the back!

**JACKSON:**

Too late for games, butler. It's payback time. Now, this one I recognise...

**SKEGG:**

(WHIMPERS)

**DOCTOR:**

Jackson, no! There's been enough killing for one day!

**JACKSON:**

Hey, this guy tortured me for a month!

**DOCTOR:**

Be that as it may, look at him now! Is that the face of your torturer? There's something at work here, not just the Sontarans - can't you see it?

**JACKSON:**

What I can't see is how any of this is my problem. We need to get out of here. You've got a ship, haven't you?

**DOCTOR:**

We can't leave.

**JACKSON:**

My laser cutter says we can. Unless you want to argue with it. Leave Skegg. So he's learned to knit. Big whoop. We are leaving. Now.

**SCENE 56: INT. AIRLOCK**

(MEL IS AT THE DOOR CONTROL, KETCH STARTS RANSACKING A LOCKER. THE DUST CLOUD OUTSIDE IS GATHERING)

**KETCH:**

Maybe there's something in these lockers... Ah, respirators! Bit vintage, but better than nothing! How are you doing with that door, Ms Melanie?

**MEL:**

I think I've found the over-ride sequence.

**KETCH:**

Good-o. I don't like the look of that dust cloud. (COUGHS)  
Think it's seeping in. Miss Tethneka, don't stand there, you'll choke!

**TETHNEKA:**

I...

**MEL:**

Let's see if I'm right...

(SHE HITS SEVERAL BUTTONS. A GRINDING OF GEARS)

There! That's the over-rides gone! We might be able to open it by hand!

**KETCH:**

Righty-ho! Think my bendy limbs might come in useful here, if we both have a go!

(MEL AND KETCH STRAIN. THE DOOR STARTS OPENING)

**MEL:**

Tethneka! Give us a hand. Come on, it's nearly open!

**TETHNEKA:**

Yes. Let me...

**KETCH:**

Shake a leg! That's it, now...

(TETHNEKA ADDS HER WEIGHT. THE DOOR OPENS FURTHER. SHE SLIPS PAST THEM AND GOES OUT)

**KETCH:**

There you go, Tethneka, my dear! You're through! Now use the control and let us out!

(OUTSIDE, TETHNEKA TAPS KEYS. THE DOOR CLOSES AGAIN)

Agh!

**MEL:**

Ow! No, Tethneka. You're locking it again! What are you doing?

**KETCH:**

Can't you hear us? What's wrong with her? (HE THUMPS AT THE GLASS OF THE DOOR)

**MEL:**

She's smiling! Why...?

**KETCH:**

First time I've seen her do that for a while...

**MEL:**

Forget her! The dust cloud's here!

(THE DUST CLOUD STARTS TO PERMEATE THE CHAMBER)

Grab a respirator!

(THEY DO AS THE CLOUD ROAR RISES)

**SCENE 57: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(JACKSON AND THE DOCTOR ENTER. THE THREE SONTARANS MARCH AROUND MADLY)

**DOCTOR:**

(HUSHED WHISPER) Sontarans, keep back!

**TROOPER #4:**

(REPEATS THROUGHOUT, UNDER) Left and right and one and two. Left and right and left and slide. Left and right and step, ball change. Shuffle. Hands. And again.

**JACKSON:**

(SOTTO) Well that's odd.

**DOCTOR:**

(SOTTO) Sontaran drill patterns aren't usually this elaborate. Or... dance based.

**JACKSON:**

(SOTTO) They've lost it! They've completely lost it.

**DOCTOR:**

(SOTTO) That's what I've been trying to tell you! Look at the shapes they're making, the shapes of the statues, the shapes in the dust outside.

**JACKSON:**

(SOTTO) I'm looking. I'm not seeing.

**DOCTOR:**

(SOTTO) They may be abstract, but they're remarkably similar wouldn't you say? Something is manipulating us all. Making us behave erratically, and these shapes are our attempts to control the madness. There is an intelligence that exists beneath our feet and in the air outside.

**JACKSON:**

(SOTTO) None of this makes me think of intelligence, butler.



**SCENE 58: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(KAYSTE WATCHING EVENTS IN THE AIRLOCK ON HIS MONITOR)

**KETCH:**

(DISTORT) Tethneka, why are you doing this?

**KAYSTE:**

See, Klath. The spies betray one another!

**MEL:**

(OVER MONITOR) Ignore her! Put this on or we'll both choke!

**KAYSTE:**

This lack of moral fibre amongst the lesser races is sickening.

**KLATH:**

Sir, the channel outside the airlock. The Tellaxi appears to be signalling us.

**KAYSTE:**

Switching comms channel.

**TETHNEKA:**

(OVER MONITOR) - is escaping! Do you hear me, Sontarans? The Doctor is about to escape in his craft!

**KAYSTE:**

What? Switching to upper deck!

(THE MONITOR IS SWITCHED TO THE PIRHOUETTING SONTARANS IN THE UPPER DECK. KAYSTE HISSES IN FURY)

**KAYSTE:**

What is this ridiculous display?

**KLATH:**

Sir! In the corner! That must be the Doctor and another human!

**KAYSTE:**

(STABS CONTROLS) Beta squad! Attention! Cease prancing this instant! The Doctor is there! I will join you. Kayste out.

(HE FLICKS THE COMMS OFF)

**KLATH:**

Sir, surely you should remain here to oversee...

**KAYSTE:**

Do not command me, Klath! You are perilously close to a charge of insubordination!

**KLATH:**

Sir! I meant no such thing. I will remain here and oversee operations.

**KAYSTE:**

Better. Consider this a warning. Now to apprehend the Doctor myself!

**SCENE 59: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(THE SONTARAN DRILL CONTINUES, REPEAT OF THE SAME WORDS AS BEFORE, UNDER:)

**DOCTOR:**

(SOTTO) They haven't spotted us yet. If we're quiet and careful, we might just get past them. Doesn't look they're paying much attention to Kayste's orders...

**JACKSON:**

(SOTTO) Doesn't matter if they do. Look! I think one of them's dropped a blaster. I might just be able to reach it.

**DOCTOR:**

(SOTTO) Maybe it was Skegg's. When he lost his mind and started on the sculptures. (REALISATION) Odd shape, aren't they? They rather resemble those gems you found...

**JACKSON:**

(SOTTO) Really? (PATS HIS POCKETS) Actually, that's a point, where are my gems?

**DOCTOR:**

(SOTTO) Never mind your gems now.

**JACKSON:**

(SOTTO) I've lost them!

**DOCTOR:**

(SOTTO) You're better off without them. We've got more pressing concerns.

**JACKSON:**

(GETTING LOUDER) You might have, I don't! I must have lost them when I attacked that Technician. (LOUD) Blast it!

(THE DRILL STOPS)

**TROOPER #4:**

What is that - [sound?] Humans!

**DOCTOR:**

Ah. Well, it appears they've noticed us now...

**SCENE 60: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(SKEGG STRUGGLES FREE)

**SKEGG:**

Now I am free from this chair... I can hide in the dark again...  
Feel the patterns around me.

(A SOUND LIKE ORGANIC GRINDING IN SCENE 43 STARTS)

Wait... I hear you again! I can touch your thoughts in my mind!  
Such patterns... There you are! A gemstone? What are you doing  
on the floor? A gemstone. A gemstone for me? Not a thought. How  
did you get up here? How did you...?

(HE SCOOPS UP JACKSON'S GEMS)

I can feel you drawing me... upstairs? No, too many there. Not  
safe. Outside! Yes, outside! You want to be with the clouds,  
don't you? Make new patterns, new colours. I will take you  
there. I will take you... New patterns, new colours... New  
shapes...

(HE HEADS OFF)

**SCENE 61: INT. AIRLOCK**

(MEL AND KETCH WEAR RESPIRATORS. THE DUST CLOUD GATHERS SPEED IN THE BACKGROUND)

**KETCH:**

(MASK) These'll help us breathe a bit. What's Tethneka doing?

**MEL:**

(MASK) She seems to be talking to someone? On the CCTV?

**KETCH:**

(MASK) Can you over-ride the lock again?

**MEL:**

(MASK) Not if she's on the other side with the control panel. Why's she done this?

**KETCH:**

(MASK) She's an odd-un and no mistake.

**MEL:**

(MASK) Wait, there's someone else there now - (GASPS) A Sontaran!

(INTERIOR DOOR OPENS. SKEGG COMES THROUGH)

**SKEGG:**

Yes, my gemstone, my beautiful perfect gemstone, I shall take you to meet the dust cloud! The colours will be brilliant!

**MEL:**

(MASK) Quickly, get out before she can close it again!

(SHE DARTS OUT. SKEGG KNOCKS KETCH ASIDE)

**SKEGG:**

Out of the way, human!

**KETCH:**

(MASK) Oof, no need to barge me out the way, you're welcome, mate.

**MEL:**

(MASK) Mr Ketch, get to [the...]

(THE DOOR SHUTS. KETCH WATCHES MEL THROUGH THE GLASS)

**KETCH:**

(MASK) Locked out. Great. Ms Melanie? Can you hear me? -  
Evidently not.

**SKEGG:**

(LEAVING) Yes, you will be free, your thoughts will fly with  
the clouds, I step into the heart of the cloud...

**KETCH:**

(MASK) Come on Ms Melanie! Let me out! The cloud, it's - agh.  
It's dragging me outside! Come on, bendy limbs, just... just  
brace yourself on the door frame - do your thing! Ms Melanie!  
Please! It's tearing my skin!

(CROSS TO:)

**SCENE 62: EXT. DUST-CLOUD [CONTINUOUS]**

(SKEGG IS IN THE EYE OF THE STORM. THE THROBBING CUTS BENEATH)

**SKEGG:**

Stone, I hear your voice - and others - so many voices whirling and singing around me, singing such colours, weaving such patterns in the clouds. You fill my eyes, my mouth, I choke, but such joy at you... In my hand, stone, you... you... blossom?

(WITH AN EXPLOSIVE CRUMP THE GEMSTONE BURSTS OPEN AND BLOSSOMS)

But you are so beautiful now! Sprouting... sprouting... so... beauti- Aargh!

(THE STORM SUBSIDES SOMEWHAT AS THE GEMSTONE CONTINUES TO SPROUT WITH A HORRIBLE STONE-LIKE NOISE. SKEGG FALLS. CROSS TO:)

**SCENE 63: INT. AIRLOCK [CONTINUOUS]**

**KETCH:**

(MASK) Oh, my good Lord. Ms Melanie? The storm might be dying, but so's that Sontaran. He's face down in the seaweed... it's... it's dissolving him. He's... Something's growing, Ms Melanie! Growing out of the cloud, and up the dome! Ms Melanie! Ms Melanie, please! I want to get out of here!



**SCENE 64: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(JACKSON DIVES FOR THE GUN)

**TROOPER #4:**

Open fire!

(THERE'S A VOLLEY OF LASER BLASTS)

**JACKSON:**

Don't worry, butler, I've got the gun!

**DOCTOR:**

No! Don't shoot, Jackson! The last thing we want to do is damage that dome!

**JACKSON:**

Sorry! Can't hear you!

(HE OPENS FIRE. MASSIVE FIRE-FIGHT; THE BLASTS STRIKE THE DOME, WHICH CRACKS)

**DOCTOR:**

Stop it, Jackson! There's something out there, some kind of plant! It's growing!

(THE DOME BREAKS. THE FROND BURSTS THROUGH)

Well, it's inside now! Keep away from the fronds! The flowers!

**TROOPER #4:**

Die, human scum!

**JACKSON:**

Who cares? It's not interested in us, it seems to like those statues!

**DOCTOR:**

(WORRIED REALISATION) Not just the plant, the cloud likes them too... They're part of the same organism! Everyone, keep away from the statues!

(THE STONE CRACKS)

**JACKSON:**

What in - what's happening?

**DOCTOR:**

The frond's integrated with the statues and the cloud's triggered their transformation.

**JACKSON:**

Into what?

(THE STATUES BUBBLE ORGANICALLY AND START TO MOVE, POLYPS BURSTING. THEIR VOICES RESEMBLE THE ORGANIC SOUND FROM SCENE 43 [AS WITH POSSESSED TETHNEKA IN NEXT SCENE])

**THING #1:**

We... live...

(THE CREATURES ROAR)

**SCENE 65: INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE AIRLOCK**

(MEL AND TETHNEKA STRUGGLE BY THE AIRLOCK CONTROL)

**MEL:**

Please, Tethneka! Let Mr Ketch in. The dust cloud will kill him!

**TETHNEKA:**

You are concerned for him...

**MEL:**

Let me open that door. (GRABS TETHNEKA) Please, I don't want to hurt you!

**TETHNEKA:**

(GRAPPLING) You are spirited, child.

**MEL:**

(GRAPPLING) And you're stronger than you look!

**TETHNEKA:**

(GRAPPLING) Yes. (LAUGHS) So you must try harder.

**MEL:**

(GRAPPLING) What? Are you enjoying this? This isn't a game!

**TETHNEKA:**

(GRAPPLING) No.

(TETHNEKA THROWS MEL ASIDE. SHE CRUMPLES WITH A THUMP)

**MEL:**

Argh! What's happened to you?

**TETHNEKA:**

(LAUGHS)

**MEL:**

Your eyes! They're changing colour!

**TETHNEKA:**

(HER VOICE ALTERS, GAINING THE ORGANIC QUALITY IN PREVIOUS SCENE) Now! We live! We awake!

(CLOSING THEME)

**PART FOUR**

(OPENING THEME)

**REPRISE:**

**TETHNEKA:**  
(LAUGHS)

**MEL:**  
*Your eyes! They're changing colour!*

**TETHNEKA:**  
(HER VOICE ALTERS) *Now! We live! We awake!*

CONTINUES INTO:

**SCENE 66: INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE AIRLOCK [CONTINUOUS]**

**MEL:**  
Who are you? What are you?

**TETHNEKA:**  
We are The Bloom. We have waited in the dark, but now we taste the light.

**MEL:**  
The Bloom? Then where's Tethneka?

**TETHNEKA:**  
We use the shape of Tethneka to talk with you now. The dust cloud outside, that is a part of us too...

**MEL:**  
The cloud? You mean (REALISATION) Look, it's dragging Mr Ketch out! Please, let me close the airlock door, he'll be killed!

**TETHNEKA:**  
We will not stop you...

**MEL:**  
Good! Now... Argh!

(TETHNEKA HAS GRABBED MEL'S HAND)

**TETHNEKA:**  
If you take us to the Doctor.

**MEL:**

Let go of me!

**TETHNEKA:**

We have tasted his thoughts and we find them... rich.

**MEL:**

Your grip, it's so strong! - Alright, I'm sure he'll want to meet you too. But let me save Mr Ketch first.

**TETHNEKA:**

Very well.

(TETHNEKA RELEASES HER)

**MEL:**

Thank you. Now...

(SHE PRESSES THE DOOR CONTROLS, INTENSELY)

That's the outer door sealed. If I unlock the inner...

**TETHNEKA:**

You will not release the other creature. The deal was to save his life. Not let him out.

**MEL:**

Why?

**TETHNEKA:**

Alone you are weaker. Together you may threaten me...

**MEL:**

We're not your enemies!

**TETHNEKA:**

All are my enemies.

(CRACKLE AS THE COMMS WORK)

**KETCH:**

(MASK + DISTORT) Ms Melanie? Ms Melanie! I've got the comms working! Can you hear me?

**MEL:**

Can I at least talk to him?

(TETHNEKA GRABS HER ARM)

**MEL:**

Argh!

**TETHNEKA:**

You will be quick. Then we will go...

**MEL:**

Ow! You needn't to be so rough! (SHE STRAINS, HITS THE COMM BUTTON) Mr Ketch?

**KETCH:**

(MASK + DISTORT) Hello my dear! What's up with Miss Tethneka?

**MEL:**

Something's possessed her. Her eyes went all... iridescent. Like the dust-clouds. It's something to do with them...

**KETCH:**

(MASK + DISTORT) Most likely. I saw the most rum occurrence with Mr Skegg and those clouds.

**MEL:**

Is he dead?

**KETCH:**

(MASK + DISTORT) Some sort of tendril sprouted out of the rock he was holding. Now he's dissolving into the sea-weed.

**MEL:**

Those multi-coloured patches I saw with the Doctor... Definitely dead then.

**TETHNEKA:**

(GRABBING HER AGAIN) The Doctor. You will take us to him...

**MEL:**

Ow! I can't talk anymore, Mr Ketch. If you're OK, I'll come back later.

**KETCH:**

(MASK + DISTORT) What? You're leaving me in here? Lord, so Miss Tethneka's taken a leaf out of the Sontarans' book, has she? Strewth, I...

(TETHNEKA SMASHES THE COMM)

**TETHNEKA:**

Enough. We will go.

(SHE PULLS MEL AWAY)

**MEL:**

Oof. Alright, alright I'm going!

**TETHNEKA:**

I hear his thoughts above us...

**SCENE 67: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(THE SILICON LIFE ADVANCES)

**THING #1:**

What are these creatures?

**THING #2:**

Let us examine them.

**DOCTOR:**

Fascinating. Some kind of mineral life-form.

**TROOPER #4:**

What must we do? Kill the humans or kill these... things?

**JACKSON:**

Might I suggest those things? If I've got any say in the matter.

**THING #1:**

What manner of creature are you?

(THEY ADVANCE ON TROOPER 4, HE FIRES AT THEM REPEATEDLY)

**TROOPER #4:**

No! Stay back!

**THING #2:**

What is it trying to do?

**TROOPER #4:**

Keep away!

**THING #1:**

We must understand how you work.

(THING 1 TEARS HIM APART)

**TROOPER #4:**

Argghh!

**TROOPER #6:**

Open fire!

(THE SONTARANS START BLASTING THE THINGS)

**THING #2:**

(UNTROUBLED) Interesting. Their flesh is weak. It rips easily.

**JACKSON:**

Its body armour! They tore through it like paper!



**DOCTOR:**

And him. I suspect retreat is our optimum strategy.

**JACKSON:**

Can we get to your ship?

**DOCTOR:**

Only if you want to go through the middle of that!

**TROOPER #6:**

Die, rock scum!

**THING #1:**

This experiment is useful. We should continue...

**JACKSON:**

Yeah, maybe not. (CALLING) Now you spuds know what it feels like to be lab specimens!

**DOCTOR:**

Don't provoke them! Back downstairs.

(THEY MOVE - BUT KAYSTE APPEARS FROM THE STAIRS)

**KAYSTE:**

Going somewhere, Doctor?

**SCENE 68: INT. CAVES**

(A TROOPER MARCHING)

**TROOPER #1:**

(PUSHING HIS WRIST-COM) Trooper Vorn reporting. Cave system is secured. Little to report. I await further instruction. Over.

(WRIST-COM BLEEPS) That I should miss the battle for this... point duty. (HIS COMM BLEEPS) Ah! Vorn here! Wh...

(A ROAR BEHIND. A MASSIVE FIGURE SWOOPS OUT AND ATTACKS HIM)

Aaargh!

**STETTIMER:**

Taste my claws, egg-man!

(KEFF MCCULLOUGH SYNTH STING)

**SCENE 69: INT. OBSERVATION DOME/STAIRS**

(THE BATTLE CONTINUES IN THE BACKGROUND)

**KAYSTE:**

I am right, am I not? You are the Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

And you are Field-Major Kayste.

**KAYSTE:**

You know my name. So you have been spying on us, Time Lord. As befits your cowardly species.

**DOCTOR:**

Hardly. You Sontarans are rather fond of announcing yourselves at any given opportunity. I could have been three planets along and still heard who you were.

**KAYSTE:**

Disguise your fear as mockery all you wish, it will not save you.

**JACKSON:**

You don't scare us, Sont[aran-]

**KAYSTE:**

Silence, human!

(KAYSTE HITS JACKSON)

**JACKSON:**

Ugh!

(HE FALLS BACK)

**DOCTOR:**

Jackson!

**KAYSTE:**

Do not worry, Time Lord. He is not dead. Yet. He merely sleeps.  
(CALLING) Troopers. Disengage!

**TROOPER #6:**

Field-Major?

**KAYSTE:**

We must regroup and decide upon tactics.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm not sure you can fight those things.

**KAYSTE:**

We can fight anything, Doctor. It is whether or not we die that is in question. (CALLS) Disengage and retreat!

**TROOPER #6:**

Sir!

(THE SONTARANS STOP FIRING AND RUN OUT)

**THING #1:**

No! Don't go!

**THING #2:**

Not when we're having fun!

(THE THINGS HEAD FOR THE STAIRS)

**JACKSON:**

(GROANING, COMING ROUND)

**KAYSTE:**

Down the stairs, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm not leaving Jackson.

**KAYSTE:**

Trooper, seal the dome.

**DOCTOR:**

No, [wait!]

**TROOPER #6:**

Sir.

(HE HITS CONTROLS. THE DOOR CLOSSES)

**DOCTOR:**

You can't leave Jackson in there, not with those... things!

**KAYSTE:**

I can, and I have. - The Computer Hub, now! Move! Or I kill you on the spot!

**SCENE 70: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(THE MINERAL CREATURES SHAMBLE TOWARDS JACKSON)

**JACKSON:**

(COMING ROUND) Ugh... what time is it? Where am I? Aargh! My nose...

**THING #1:**

What is it? What does it do?

**THING #2:**

Let us taste its thoughts...

**JACKSON:**

No! Get away from me! No!!!

**SCENE 71: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(THE DOCTOR AND KAYSTE ENTER)

**DOCTOR:**

Let Jackson out of the Dome, or I won't help you.

**KAYSTE:**

You have unusual ideas about what I will or will not do.

**KLATH:**

Field-Major, I am receiving strange reports. What is happening on the observation deck?

**KAYSTE:**

I am as yet unsure.

(MEL AND TETHNEKA ENTER FROM THE AIRLOCK CORRIDOR)

**MEL:**

Doctor!

**DOCTOR:**

Mel! – Mel, what's wrong with your friend?

**TETHNEKA:**

Nothing is wrong with me. Everything now is right.

**MEL:**

Yes, I'm not so sure about that. Doctor – I have to tell you what happened to Skegg –

**KAYSTE:**

What are you apes wittering about? What is wrong with the Tellaxi?

**DOCTOR:**

Judging by the colour of her eyes, I suspect she's part of the organism attacking us.

**TETHNEKA:**

I am no mere organism. I am the Bloom.

**DOCTOR:**

Pleased to meet you.

**KAYSTE:**

It is true?

**MEL:**

Oh, pay attention, can't you?

**KAYSTE:**

If it is she who wages war upon my people, then she shall depart this world, swiftly and permanently.

**MEL:**

I really wouldn't try that.

**KAYSTE:**

And yet another presumes to give me orders!

**TETHNEKA:**

The girl is right. I am but part of a greater whole, you cannot harm me. But I can harm you.

**KAYSTE:**

I would like to see you try.

**DOCTOR:**

Don't tempt her.

**TETHNEKA:**

I can flood this base with the cloud. It would be the work of moments to make you one with us.

**KAYSTE:**

Your threats do not work. 'If we do not let you kill us, you will kill us', that is no ultimatum. Klath - !

**TETHNEKA:**

We have no desire to kill you. Just... absorb you. Use you as catalysts in our development as an organism.

**DOCTOR:**

Tell that to the Sontarans you ripped apart upstairs.

**TETHNEKA:**

We... dissected them. For scientific study.

**DOCTOR:**

And Jackson? Tell me you've left him alone.

**TETHNEKA:**

Jackson is unharmed physically. Listen.

(SHE FLICKS A CONTROL SWITCH. THE FEED FROM THE DOME EMANATES)

**JACKSON:**

(DISTORT) Fronds like glass... Living glass... Touching my face... Touching my mind... You, you... So cold, so...

**THING #1:**

(DISTORT) Tell us what you are? You are frailer than the other  
flesh-things here...

(CROSS INTO OBSERVATION DOME)



**SCENE 72: INT. OBSERVATION DOME [CONTINUOUS]**

**JACKSON:**

I am Colonel Anvil Jackson! Space adventurer and...

**THING #2:**

Its thoughts are clouded, let us search deeper.

**JACKSON:**

Aaagh! (PAIN, THEN TRANCE-LIKE) My name is Dave Jackson. I worked for Goldthwaite and Zagron Interplanetary Haulage Ltd... So many bodies in the dark!

**THING #1:**

It has deeper thoughts, memories it fears.

**JACKSON:**

(STILL TRANCE-LIKE BUT EMOTION BREAKING THROUGH) Extra cash for cargo. Smuggling. Didn't ask questions... What was in the containers? People in the hold. Bodies in the dark. So many, so many, all because of me!

**THING #2:**

Such rich thoughts, such deep colours...

**JACKSON:**

(TRANCE) I'm sorry! I'm so so sorry! I didn't know, I didn't want to know... Police! Feds after me, across the inner galaxy. Got to get further out. Escape. The darkness. See their faces in the dark. Telling stories. Have to tell my own instead. The Sontarans believe me. Warriors they understand... A warrior! But I'm no hero...

(CROSS BACK TO:)

**SCENE 73: INT. COMPUTER ROOM [CONTINUOUS]**

(KAYSTE AND THE DOCTOR WATCH JACKSON REMOTELY)

**JACKSON:**

(ON SCREEN) Not a hero... Not a hero...

(KAYSTE SWITCHES IT OFF)

**KAYSTE:**

He communicates with the mineral creatures.

**MEL:**

A confession, it seems. Was your order big on penitence, Tethneka? If there's any of Tethneka left in there?

**TETHNEKA:**

There is a seam of Tethneka in us. But we are always changing.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. Feeding off all that's happening around you. Like a newborn learning about its surroundings. Only you're not a newborn baby, you're a newborn species!

**TETHNEKA:**

There is much we can learn from you Doctor. Your thoughts, your mind, so rich...

**DOCTOR:**

I suppose I should be flattered. But believe me, there's a lot in my head you don't want to see.

**KAYSTE:**

The Time Lords have nothing to teach us, cowards to a man!

**TETHNEKA:**

You Sontarans excite us. But you are... limited.

**KAYSTE:**

How dare you!

**TETHNEKA:**

But within this one, there is much more for us to learn. Down below, your mind tasted so... complex.

**DOCTOR:**

I think I see how this all fits together...

**KAYSTE:**

More Time Lord lies! I should tear you limb from limb!

**MEL:**

Oh, can't you do anything apart from threaten people? This creature's already tearing your troops limb from limb, apparently, we hardly need you doing it as well!

**KAYSTE:**

Insolence! You will be first!

**DOCTOR:**

Think, Kayste! Think! You're a Sontaran warrior, but you're intelligent too! An officer! You're meant to be brains as well as brawn!

**KAYSTE:**

You insult me further, sir?

**KLATH:**

Field-Major... With respect...

**KAYSTE:**

Silence, Klath! (HE BLASTS KLATH)

**KLATH:**

Sir! I... (HE EXPIRES)

**MEL:**

What did you do that for?!

**KAYSTE:**

What... Klath? I...

**DOCTOR:**

You've just shot your Adjutant, Kayste! Is your mind working as rationally as it should be?

**SCENE 74: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(JACKSON BREATHING RAGGEDLY)

**JACKSON:**

No hero...

**THING #1:**

We have learnt all we can from this one. He must become one with the bloom.

(THE ORGANIC GROWTH SOUND BURSTS ALL OVER JACKSON)

**JACKSON:**

Yaaargh!

**SCENE 75: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

**MEL:**

Doctor! Tethneka's smiling again. I don't think that's a good sign.

**DOCTOR:**

(TO TETHNEKA) This is what you want, isn't it, Bloom? Conflict, violence, surging emotions - they're intoxicating you!

**KAYSTE:**

Klath, I am sorry. Klath! - You, Tellaxi, rock-thing or whatever you are, you will pay for this!

(HE GRABS FOR HER)

**DOCTOR:**

Kayste, no! That's what she wants - or thinks she wants. Control yourself!

**MEL:**

She can still flood the base with the dust-cloud, remember.

**KAYSTE:**

(RESTRAINT) Enough! Very well. Stalemate. What is to be done? No answer, Tellaxi? (PAUSE) Time Lord?

**DOCTOR:**

Mel, what were you saying about what happened to Skegg?

**KAYSTE:**

That coward...

**MEL:**

Mr Ketch told me - he was killed carrying a rock into the dust cloud - it "sprouted" into a tendril or something...

**DOCTOR:**

That's what burst into the dome. So that's what the "gemstones" were. Parts of a larger organism... like eggs, or seeds. Except you've used the people here to carry your seeds from the mineral seams below into the atmosphere above.

**MEL:**

Like the "sculptures" upstairs!

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, colonies of cells... Or perhaps coral polyps would be a better analogy. And the dust-cloud pollinates them!

**MEL:**

Like plants... made of stone?

**DOCTOR:**

Something like that. An intelligent, silicone-based life-form crawling its way to the surface of this planet like your ancestors crawled onto land. Or rather - persuading other life forms to take them to the surface. (TO TETHNEKA) This base isn't built on a geological fault at all, is it?

**TETHNEKA:**

It is built on us.

**DOCTOR:**

So you needed a new way to reach the atmosphere. Fascinating...

**KAYSTE:**

This creature's life-cycle is irrelevant!

**DOCTOR:**

Oh no, it's not! It uses emotion, feeds off it - first it was the miners, but that took place over months; then your research team arrived years later and their fear inducers stirred things up again! Turbo-charged it! When they met me...

**TETHNEKA:**

You were richer and more stimulating than anything else we had tasted!

**DOCTOR:**

Flatterer. You see, Kayste? We're watching evolution happen at breakneck speed.

**TETHNEKA:**

We have shaped ourself around the lives of all the creatures dwelling here.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes - the dust everywhere, it's part of the organism, too. It's infiltrated the entire system.

**MEL:**

All those power cuts. The door mechanisms going wonky!

**DOCTOR:**

A low-level telepathic field throughout the facility. That explains Ava Carter's "ghost"!

**TETHNEKA:**

Indeed, Doctor. We saw her on the surface of your mind. (HER VOICE BECOMES CARTER'S)

**CARTER:**

Your thoughts about her were loud, they interested us. (VOICE REVERTS TO POSSESSION, AS BEFORE:)

**TETHNEKA:**

We wanted you to join us in the caves.

**DOCTOR:**

And Tethneka's telepathic ability made her the ideal mouthpiece for you.

**TETHNEKA:**

The spiritual exercises helped Tethneka to clear her mind, especially under torture. And made it easier for us to enter.

**DOCTOR:**

So now what? What do you want? Raw primal emotions are easy to see, but there's so much more you can learn.

**TETHNEKA:**

(CURIOUS) More...?

**DOCTOR:**

I can show you, but you must stop threatening us all. Violence is not the only way [to...]

(ROAR AS THE INTERIOR DOOR IS SMASHED IN. STETTNER BURSTS IN)

**STETTNER:**

Creatures!

**MEL:**

That's got to be 'Lobster'...

**STETTNER:**

Die!

(THE SONTARANS OPEN FIRE ON STETTNER)

**KAYSTE:**

Fire at will! His carapace must have a weak point!

**STETTNER:**

Your heads are a weak point!

(STETTNER PICKS OFF SOME SONTARANS WITH A SNAP OF HIS CLAWS)

See? I caught you by surprise. With a pincer movement.

(THE SONTARANS KEEP FIRING AND STETTNER LAYS IN)

**KAYSTE:**

Levity is not appropriate, crustacean!

**MEL:**

Enough with the comedy critique. Let's get out of here!

**DOCTOR:**

The control deck. Quickly!

(THE DOCTOR, MEL AND KAYSTE RACE OFF. FIGHT CONTINUES FOR A FEW MORE BEATS)



**SCENE 76: INT. SONTARAN CONTROL DECK**

(THE DOCTOR, KAYSTE AND MEL RUN IN)

**DOCTOR:**

Stettimer's been down in the caves. It's driven him mad.

**MEL:**

How do we seal the door?

**KAYSTE:**

That button.

(SHE FLIPS IT. DOOR CLOSES)

**DOCTOR:**

Rather surprised to see you flee the battle, Field-Major.

**KAYSTE:**

What - I - (REALISATION) The shame of it!

**MEL:**

Don't worry. Everyone's behaving oddly here. Thanks to the Bloom.

**KAYSTE:**

It must be stopped.

**DOCTOR:**

That is rather the idea. It's why we came in here. I couldn't exactly do anything with Sontaran guns blazing everywhere.

**KAYSTE:**

I shall set up a trap with the computers. A containment field. Capture or destroy this being. You, Doctor, can be my technician, since Gyte has retreated to the battlegrounds of the afterlife. You, human, can be bait.

**MEL:**

Bait? We should be working together, Kayste, not sacrificing each other.

**DOCTOR:**

Mel's quite right. We don't know how much of the base systems the Bloom has under its control. It could be toying with us.

**KAYSTE:**

You have an alternate plan?

**DOCTOR:**

Maybe if we set up something with the mining equipment...

**KAYSTE:**

I do not need maybes! I need certainties!

(HE OPERATES CONTROLS)

Life signs depleting. It appears I am running out of troops...  
It must be destroyed.

**DOCTOR:**

No! I don't think the Bloom is evil, Field-Major.

**MEL:**

No?

**DOCTOR:**

The organism has been dividing and reproducing itself using the minds of the people here. It follows where they lead. Creating patterns out of the gemstones helped it get nearer the surface, but it was the sheer joy and freedom of creation that drove people mad... before it got sidetracked by the Sontarans' psychotic tendencies.

**KAYSTE:**

This is of little interest. I have only one constructive course of action.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh?

**KAYSTE:**

I fill this facility with combustible gas and blow it up.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah.

**MEL:**

How? You can't get past it, not while it's in the Computer Room!

**KAYSTE:**

This Control Deck has an emergency vent into the airlock itself, for swift escape in the event of emergency.

**MEL:**

Well, I think this applies as an emergency.

(A PLATE RATTLES NEARBY)

**DOCTOR:**

There are still living beings here, Kayste, you can't just blow them up.

**KAYSTE:**

Watch. The vent is over [here.]

(THE PLATE FLIPS OUT)

**MEL:**

But - there's someone coming out!

(KETCH EMERGES FROM THE VENT BELOW THE PLATE)

**KETCH:**

So, where the devil am I? Ms Melanie! And you must be the Doctor!

**DOCTOR:**

Er -

**MEL:**

Mr Ketch!

**KETCH:**

And - Oh.

**KAYSTE:**

Ah. The bendy one.

**KETCH:**

Mister Bendy One to you, squire.

**MEL:**

How did you escape?

**KETCH:**

Found a loose plate in the ceiling. Did you know there's an emergency vent directly to the airlock?

**DOCTOR:**

We were beginning to suspect, yes.

**KAYSTE:**

Silence. It is our means of escape. If I release the inner airlock door from here, we may be able to reach a storage bay...

**SCENE 77: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(STETTNER AND THE REMAINING SONTARANS FIGHTING)

**TROOPER #6:**

Hold him Sked! I will stave his shell in!

**STETTNER:**

You are not strong enough to hold me, egg-men. Broad my claw!

(STETTNER SHRUGS OFF SKED AND CLAWS HIM)

**TROOPER #7:**

Aargh!

**TETHNEKA:**

Your rage thrills me, Stettner! Such power, such violence!

**TROOPER #6:**

I will blast you to atoms!

(LASER BLAST)

**STETTNER:**

Small your eyes, poor your aim!

(STETTNER RIPS THE BLASTER OFF HIM)

**TROOPER #6:**

Aargh! My blaster!

**STETTNER:**

I need no such weapons!

**TROOPER #6:**

Come then, Losturan, I will tear the shell off you!

(THEY BATTLE)

**TETHNEKA:**

Yes, yes! (LAUGHS) Your savagery is wonderful!

**SCENE 78: INT. EQUIPMENT STORE**

(DOOR OPENS)

**KAYSTE:**

Inside. Find me a gas canister. Something that will be both explosive and highly toxic to all life, including silicone-based.

**MEL:**

Quite a specific shopping list, wouldn't you say...

**KETCH:**

Would you like it gift-wrapped, with a little bow?

**KAYSTE:**

Silence!

**DOCTOR:**

Why should we help you, Field-Major?

**KAYSTE:**

If I point my laser stick at this female's head, does that suggest an answer?

**DOCTOR:**

I suppose it does, yes. I should be able to locate some chemical compound that works the way you want, sad to say.

**KAYSTE:**

Then do so. Swiftly.

(THE DOCTOR STARTS SEARCHING)

**MEL:**

What do you intend to do?

**KAYSTE:**

The Time Lord has a respiratory bypass system. You lesser species may not, but you appear to have retained the respirators from the airlock.

**KETCH:**

What, this old thing? It doesn't really go with what I'm wearing...

**KAYSTE:**

With these, you will be able to withstand the effects of the gas, so I shall claim a readiness to parlay with the Bloom. I then send you in ahead as mules to carry the canisters into its presence.

**MEL:**

Wonderful. I've always wanted to be a mule.

**KETCH:**

A mule's better than an ass, which is what I'm usually called, so I'd consider it a promotion.

**KAYSTE:**

I will have my laser trained on you, should you wish to disobey. Well, Doctor? Have you located such a chemical?

**DOCTOR:**

(OFF) I'm very much afraid I have...

**SCENE 79: INT. COMPUTER ROOM**

(STETTNER CHOKES THE LAST SONTARAN TROOPER)

**STETTNER:**

Yes, feel my claws around your neck!

**TROOPER #6:**

(CHOKES) Alien scum...

(STETTNER GIVES THE FINAL TWIST AND THE TROOPER EXPIRES)

**STETTNER:**

I have vanquished you, egg-man! I am victorious! (ROARS OF TRIUMPH)

**TETHNEKA:**

Yes... (REALISATION) Where are the others?

**STETTNER:**

They have fled, like the Pendran Hordes at the Battle of Vendaris 5. Yes... Pendrars scattered in their thousands/ Broken spirits, burning ships/ Laughing Vestimer took his war-prize/ Deadly was his workmanship...

**TETHNEKA:**

Where are they? Have they hidden in their little cavern behind the wall here...?

(SHE PRESSES THE DOOR CONTROL TO THE SONTARAN CONTROL DECK. THE DOOR SLIDES OPEN)

Come out, Doctor. We wish to... Empty! Where are they?

(MEL, THE DOCTOR AND KETCH ENTER FROM THE MAIN STAIRWELL)

**MEL:**

Over here!

**STETTNER:**

The stairwell? But -

**DOCTOR:**

Tethneka! Bloom! Whatever you're calling yourself now!

**TETHNEKA:**

Doctor! You join us again...

**KETCH:**

Oh, look, in the corner. It's Mr Stettner.

**MEL:**

Yes. Big chap, isn't he?

**DOCTOR:**

We come in peace! Although I'm not sure that's what you want, given the number of bodies surrounding you, but still...

**TETHNEKA:**

You will teach us more. We will drink deep of you...

**DOCTOR:**

Will you? I suppose I am quite intoxicating. But if you do, let my friends go.

**TETHNEKA:**

They are less flavoursome. But they will feed us too.

**DOCTOR:**

How? What will you do? Get them to fight each other? Live in constant terror, so you can get the occasional fix? You've learned too much from the Sontaran rabble that took over this base.

**MEL:**

Er, Doctor, aren't you forgetting someone?

**DOCTOR:**

If you're going to model yourself after a species, choose a half-decent one. Not a bunch of neckless thugs who can't shoot straight.

**KETCH:**

Steady on, Doctor!

**DOCTOR:**

They've stretched out a minor skirmish with some space-suited amoebas for fifty thousand years, I wouldn't take them as the pinnacle of military achievement.

**KAYSTE:**

(OFF) Enough!

(KAYSTE BURSTS IN)

You will witness the virtue of Sontaran self-sacrifice! I push the trigger and gas this chamber.

(HE OPERATES A TRIGGER. GAS HISSES FROM THE CANISTERS AND FLOODS THE ROOM)



**MEL:**

Ketch! Respirators!

(THEY PUT THEIRS ON)

**DOCTOR:**

Deep breath...

(HE INHALES)

**STETTIMER:**

Another egg-man! And not dead yet! (COUGHS) This mist will not keep my claws from your hide!

(STETTIMER LEAPS FOR KAYSTE. THE LOCK IN COMBAT)

**KAYSTE:**

Arrgh, crustacean scum!

(THEY WRESTLE IN THE BACKGROUND)

**TETHNEKA:**

We cannot breathe... This body is too frail...

(SHE DROPS. KAYSTE BLASTS STETTIMER)

**KAYSTE:**

Take that, Losturan! You may have wounded me, but I win the fight. (SLUMPS) Wounds, deeper than I thought. Must reach the detonator...

(HE DRAGS HIMSELF ALONG THE FLOOR)

**DOCTOR:**

Mel, Mr Ketch, we need to get out of here!

**KETCH:**

(RACING OUT, MASK) No sooner said...

**MEL:**

(MASK) No! Doctor, Kayste is after the detonator. We've got to get it!

(SHE RACES FOR THE DETONATOR)

**DOCTOR:**

Mel! Careful! Look at Tethneka!

(MEL STOPS)

**TETHNEKA:**

We choke... But we may break free of this form...

(HORRIBLE GRISTLY NOISE AS MINERAL SPROUTS BURST OUT OF TETHNEKA)

**MEL:**

(MASK) She's sprouting tendrils!

**DOCTOR:**

She must have been full of mineral dust. It's seeking a new host. Keep clear! Only leave it one option!

(SLITHERING MINERAL TENDRIL REACHES OUT)

**KAYSTE:**

Aargh! What manner of torture is this, what pierces my skin...

**MEL:**

(MASK) It's got the Field-Major!

**DOCTOR:**

We need to leave. Now!

**KAYSTE:**

Must reach the detonator, must...

**MEL:**

(GETTING THE DETONATOR, MASK) Oh no, you don't. - Got it!

**DOCTOR:**

Then run!

(THEY CHARGE OUT)

**KAYSTE:**

(HE STARTS TO LAUGH) Why do I laugh? Why... (HIS VOICE TAKES ON THE BLOOM'S QUALITY) Now, we have a new body! A new voice! Yes, we are stronger! More aggressive!

**SCENE 80: INT. STAIRWELL**

(KETCH IS TRYING TO OPEN THE DOOR. THE DOCTOR AND MEL RACE UP THE STAIRS BEHIND)

**KETCH:**

(MASK) The door to the upper level. It's jammed!

**DOCTOR:**

Some kind of mineral accretion! Perhaps the creatures inside have grown?

**MEL:**

(MASK) Shouldn't the gas have dealt with them?

**DOCTOR:**

You don't think I gave Kayste the right one, do you? It's explosive but it's far less lethal.

**MEL:**

(MASK) Now he tells me. Hold on - (TAKES OFF RESPIRATOR; UNDISTORTED) Won't be needing that any more...

**KETCH:**

(DOING LIKEWISE) Me neither! (STRUGGLES MORE WITH THE DOOR)

**MEL:**

There's a gap at the top! Mr Ketch, can you -

**KETCH:**

Way ahead of you! It's a narrow one, mind. (STRAINS AS HE ELONGATES HIS LIMBS)

**DOCTOR:**

Extraordinary!

**KETCH:**

(STRAINING) Here... we... go...

(WITH A WRENCH, KETCH LEVERS THE DOOR OPEN USING HIS ARM LIKE A JACK)

Quick, can't hold it for long!

**DOCTOR:**

Mel, you first!

**MEL:**

OK.

**DOCTOR:**

I'll go through and hold it, then you, Ketch.

**KETCH:**

Right you are!

(WITH CONSIDERBALE EFFORT THEY BUNDLE THROUGH THE DOOR WHICH SLAMS BEHIND THEM. KAYSTE STARTS CLAMBERING UP THE STAIRS BELOW)

**KAYSTE:**

(BLOOM) Wait... for... me... (LAUGHS MADLY)

**SCENE 81: INT. OBSERVATION DOME**

(THE DOCTOR, MEL AND KETCH RACE INSIDE. JACKSON IS THERE WITH THE THINGS. THE WHOLE PLACE HAS AN ORGANIC, BUBBLING FEEL)

**KETCH:**

Oh gosh. The Bloom is everywhere!

**MEL:**

Looks like a coral reef!

**DOCTOR:**

I'd guess that's the organism's natural state.

**JACKSON:**

(BLOOM) Doctor. Mel. Mr Ketch.

**MEL:**

What's it done to him?

**DOCTOR:**

We're too late for Mr Jackson, I'm afraid.

**KETCH:**

Oh, Mr Jackson. I'm so sorry!

**JACKSON:**

Don't be. I am part of a greater whole. Do you like what we've done with the place?

**DOCTOR:**

It's lovely. But we can't stay, I'm afraid.

**JACKSON:**

Wait with us!

(KAYSTE'S LAUGHTER ECHOES BELOW)

**MEL:**

The Field-Major's coming!

**DOCTOR:**

The TARDIS! RUN!

(THEY RACE FOR THE ANTE-ROOM)

**JACKSON:**

No! Stop!

(WET TENDRILS FLAP AFTER THEM)

**DOCTOR:**

Mel, look out!

**MEL:**

(YELPS) Ketch, be careful, its tendrils are everywhere...

**KETCH:**

Oh, my goodness me!

**MEL:**

Just run, you can make it!

(THEY CHARGE OUT)

**JACKSON:**

No!

(KAYSTE STAGGERS IN)

**KAYSTE:**

Stay with us.

**SCENE 82: INT. TARDIS**

(DOORS OPEN. MEL, THE DOCTOR AND KETCH BARREL IN)

**KETCH:**

Goodness me. It's bigger [on the ins-]

**DOCTOR:**

Do try to be original.

(HE OPERATES CONTROLS; DOORS CLOSE)

**MEL:**

Are we leaving them?

**DOCTOR:**

Kayste and Mr Jackson are beyond our help now. But the Bloom isn't.

**MEL:**

You want to help that thing?

**DOCTOR:**

Like I said, it's not an inherently evil organism. It's simply evolving the wrong way. It's fed off the violence of the Sontarans, so it's ended up developing in a similar vein. It needs to recombine itself through dispersal into its dust form. That's the only way it'll evolve into something less aggressive...

**MEL:**

So how do we stop that happening?

**DOCTOR:**

Isn't it obvious? We blow it up. Have you still got that detonator?

**SCENE 83: INT. BASE UPPER LEVEL**

(KAYSTE AND JACKSON HAMMER THE TARDIS DOORS AS IT DEMATERIALISES)

**JACKSON:**

(BLOOM) Do not leave us!

**KAYSTE:**

(BLOOM) Stay!

**JACKSON:**

(BLOOM) We need you.

(THE TARDIS IS GONE)

**JACKSON/KAYSTE:**

(BLOOM) No!



**SCENE 84: INT. TARDIS**

(THE TARDIS IN OPERATION. CONTROLS)

**DOCTOR:**

Engaging hover mode...

**MEL:**

Opening scanner.

(SHE OPENS THE SCANNER)

**DOCTOR:**

There it is.

**MEL:**

The Bloom's everywhere.

**DOCTOR:**

So we'd better be quick. Mr Ketch, would you do the honours?

**KETCH:**

What, press the button? I'd be proud to.

(HE HITS THE DETONATOR SWITCH)

**SCENE 85: INT. BASE UPPER LEVEL**

**KAYSTE:**

(BLOOM) Doctor!

**JACKSON:**

(BLOOM) Come b[ack!]

(EXPLOSION DESTROYS THEM)

**SCENE 86: INT. TARDIS**

(THE EXPLOSION CONTINUES ON THE SCANNER)

**KETCH:**

And thar she blows.

**MEL:**

The Bloom's destroyed.

**DOCTOR:**

Only in its current gestalt form. The combination of Kayste, Jackson, Tethneka and whatever other bits of Sontaran and Losturan it found lying around...

**MEL:**

Now it can recombine into a different form.

**DOCTOR:**

Silicone-based life is usually pretty resilient. Floating around as a few clouds rather than creating nasty inter-species hybrids will give it time to "cool off", I think.

**KETCH:**

Hey. I'm an inter-species hybrid. I turned out alright.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. I suppose you did.

**MEL:**

Looks like it's dispersing already.

**DOCTOR:**

Into new clouds. New shapes. Part mineral, part tentacle, part plant.

**MEL:**

I think we're witnessing the birth of a new species.

**KETCH:**

A better one?

**DOCTOR:**

It might take on the better parts of the species it's observed. But we can't be certain.

**MEL:**

So was leaving it to chance really a good idea?

**DOCTOR:**

Life is always a good idea, Mel. Chance has done pretty well for most species. Far be it from me to be judge, jury and executioner.

**MEL:**

I suppose. (BEAT) It does look rather beautiful.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. It does.

(HE CLOSSES THE SCANNER)

So. Mr Ketch. Where can we drop you off?

(CLOSING THEME)

**THE END**